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EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MID considerable excitement the Liberal amendment to the Coal Bill on the quota was defeated on Thursday of last week by nine votes-280 to 271. The Bill was saved by four Liberals, Sir William Edge, Major Nathan, Mr. Percy Harris, and Mr. Mander, who voted with the Government, and by eight who abstained. The decisive effect of the courses taken by their twelve colleagues has caused a certain soreness among the majority of Liberal Members, as even our genial Parliamentary Correspondent reveals this week; but we, for our part, cordially agree with Sir Francis Acland, who says in a letter on another page that all three lines of action taken by Liberal Members were perfectly justified, and that the only mistake any of them could make would be to quarrel about it. This was not an instance of lax party discipline, but of a very difficult and complicated decision, involving conflicting considerations, upon which any member worth his salt would claim the right to form his own judgment. It is satisfactory, therefore, to record that at the party meeting on Tuesday a vote of confidence in Mr. Lloyd George as leader was carried with only one dissentient; Sir Robert Hutchison consented to remain Chief Whip; and every member present pledged himself to work in harmony with the others for the common good. It is also significantly stated that Mr. Lloyd George has invited Mr. Runciman and Sir Donald Maclean to attend meetings of the Liberal "Shadow Cabinet."

Meanwhile, the Tory Party, while giving exaggerated prominence to Liberal dissensions, has been going through a prolonged crisis on its own account. The Press Lords have at least succeeded in giving the impression that their United Empire Party was making rapid progress. Something like panic seems to have taken possession of the Conservative leaders and wirepullers, and Mr. Baldwin has been urged from all sides to do something to stem the tide of desertion to the new Party. At the end of last week, moreover, Sir Robert Horne made a speech which might have been regarded as an offer to become the leader of a Reunited Empire Party. If that was the intention, it did not awaken any direct response from Lord Beaverbrook or On the other hand, it was noticeable that Lord Beaverbrook was growing daily more polite to Mr. Baldwin, and observant persons formed the opinion that negotiations were in progress. This view was strikingly confirmed on Tuesday when Mr. Baldwin, addressing the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, announced that food taxes would not be ruled out in negotiating a treaty with the Dominions, but that they would subsequently be submitted to a referendum of the electorate.

We indicate our own reaction to the new Conservative policy on another page; here is Lord Beaverbrook's. Instead of keeping an engagement to address a meeting on Tuesday evening, he wrote a letter to the Chairman, Mr. P. J. Hannon, saying that the

"momentous announcement from the leader of the Conservative Party " had altered the political outlook "almost to the point of transformation"; he must therefore consult his colleagues before pronouncing on the subject. Evidently Lord Beaverbrook lost no time in consulting Lord Rothermere, for next morning he was able to announce profound gratitude to Mr. Baldwin for "his plain straightforward words," which he regarded as " perfectly satisfactory "; and to add that the "Empire Crusade" would be "saved the expense, the enormous expense," of opposing Conservative members in their constituencies. So Lord Beaverbrook is fully satisfied, and apparently Lord Rothermere is also satisfied. It would be interesting to know how Mr. Churchill is feeling, but that has not yet been The Times, however, has confessed to a lingering regret that "Mr. Baldwin may prove to have given decent burial to a rival organization that had done little in its short span to merit such rites-an organization with neither roots to sustain it nor good sense to commend it, and, among some of its converts, without even good faith to excuse it."

There is every hope that, by the time this issue is in our readers' hands, the Naval Conference will again be in full session. During the interval the expert subcommittees have continued their useful work, but the chief centre of interest has shifted from London to Washington. The Big Navy Party in the Senate saw their chance in the discouragement caused by the presentation of the French demands and the subsequent interruption of the work of the Conference by the political crisis in Paris. Speeches were made in the Senate, inspired by the old animosity against Britain that we associate with the name of Mr. Shearer; the complete failure of the Conference was asserted, and a demand was even made for the immediate recall of the American delegation. The result of these attacks was extremely significant. The Press branded the pessimistic Senators as "defeatists"; Senator Borah denounced the proposal for the recall of the delegates in strong terms; anxious constituents bombarded members of Congress with letters of protest; and a telegram, signed by 1,200 prominent citizens from all over the United States, was dispatched to the American delegates, to assure them of their country's support in the continuance of their work.

We have, of course, our own counterparts to the Big Navy Senators. Mr. Winston Churchill has been delighting the Navy League with a characteristic speech, denouncing the reduction in British cruiser strength, and asking what the Kellogg Pact has to do with the strategic requirements of the Admiralty. Mr. Churchill, however, cuts very little ice. The opposition group in the United States Senate might, on the other hand, have become really dangerous, and it is a notable sign of the times that the unexpectedly widespread and vigorous reaction to their attack has already sent most of them scuttling to cover. The most significant feature of this reaction, however, is that leading American papers, such as the New York Times, the NEW YORK WORLD, and the WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, are beginning to say openly that the technical and political aspects of disarmament cannot be divorced; and that a Five-Power Pact for consultations and cooperation to prevent war, on the Pacific model, gives the best hope of really substantial armament reductions. The New York Times goes so far as to urge President Hoover, "without an exaggerated fear of

what the Senate may think or do," to put himself at the head of those "who are eagerly awaiting the next stage of the world's evolution towards stability and unshaken peace." Any attempt to put pressure on American opinion from outside would be disastrous as well as impertinent; but we believe, for reasons set out in our leader pages, that the "sensible and steadygoing body of Americans," for whom the New York Times speaks, will rally more and more to the support of this proposal.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, March 2nd, M. Tardieu was able to announce that he had formed a new Cabinet. The appointment of most interest to this country is that of M. Dusmenil, who succeeds M. Leygues at the Ministry of Marine. M. Dusmenil, who will presumably join the French delegation at the London Conference, was the author of the Report on Naval Estimates for this year's Budget, and is likely to be a stiff upholder of the maximum French claims. M. Briand, fortunately, remains at the Foreign Office. Although the result has been acclaimed as a great success for M. Tardieu, it shows that no French Government will maintain a majority for long if it is supported only by the Right and Centre. The complex of groups lying between the Left Centre and the Left seem to hold all the strategical points necessary for making and breaking Governments, and M. Tardieu has only formed his Cabinet by making considerable concessions; for it includes five members of the Socialist-Radical Party, who have joined M. Tardieu against their Party's decision. This state of things may be an effective barrier to the anti-Republican reaction of which so many Frenchmen lie in terror; but so long as it lasts, it will be futile to expect stable Governments.

Mr. Gandhi has launched his "ultimatum" to the Viceroy, and is equally busy in organizing "active' non-violent, civil disobedience, and in deprecating in advance the outbreaks of violence to which he is uneasily conscious that it will inevitably give birth. Meanwhile the discussion, by the Chamber of Princes, of the Butler Report, and of the preparations for the Round Table Conference, has given an opportunity for the Princes to discuss with leading representatives of the Indian Liberals, and other leaders of moderate Indian opinion, the relations between the States and British India. Nothing very tangible has yet arisen from these discussions, but they register, at least, a valuable step on the road to co-operation. For the moment the chief topic in India is the new Budget introduced by Sir George Schuster, the most important features of which are the reintroduction of the old import duty of 4d. per ounce on silver, and a new tariff on cotton goods. The duty on all cotton piece-goods is raised from 11 to 15 per cent. An additional protective duty of 5 per cent. is to be placed on non-British plain-grey piece-goods, for three years, to give the Bombay mill-owners time to put their house in order. This is the most controversial feature of the Budget. Japanese exporters are up in arms against the discriminatory duty; Lancashire is alarmed by the general raising of the tariff; and Indian merchants are indignant at the element of Imperial preference. What the consumer thinks goes unrecorded.

The British shipbuilding industry has taken a bold and wise step. Its recent difficulties have been due, not only to foreign competition and the slump in de-

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mand arising from a world surplusage of tonnage, but to the continued decline in warship construction, and to the deadweight of a great extension in its slips and plant undertaken, at the instigation of the Government, to meet war needs. The demand for warship tonnage is not, happily, likely to revive. The maximum demand for mercantile tonnage is unlikely ever to give full employment to the new slips and plant erected to cope with the emergency caused by war The shipbuilders have accordingly formed a company for the purpose of taking over and disposing of redundant or obsolete shipyards; dismantling and disposing of their equipment; and resale of the sites, under restrictions against further use for shipbuilding. By co-operating in this way, to deal with a handicap for which it was not itself responsible, the shipbuilding industry has shown a good example to others who, when faced by similar difficulties, either clamour for protection or subsidies, or wait Micawber-like "for semething to turn up."

A summary of the Civil Estimates and Estimates for Revenue Departments for the year 1930-31 was issued at the end of last week. The figures afford some indication of the magnitude of the task which awaits Mr. Snowden-and of the unpleasant fate which hangs over the head of the taxpayer. The Civil Estimates total £295.7 millions, as compared with £249.5 millions for 1929-30; but of this apparent increase of £46 millions some £15 millions is counterbalanced by a saving in Consolidated Fund charges. On the other hand, the figure given above for 1929-30 includes some £12 millions of Supplementary Estimates, and it is quite on the cards that next year's total will eventually show a comparable increase. The transfer of burdens from Consolidated Fund to Supply Services is, of course, a consequence of the Local Government Act, 1929, and against the heavy increase in expenditure fore-shadowed must be offset the gain to industry and transport from the operation of its de-rating provisions. The largest net increases are-for Contributory Pensions (£5 millions), for Unemployment Insurance (£6.5 millions), and for Education (£1.9 millions). The Estimates for Revenue Departments also show a small increase; but these, it is anticipated, will be more than counterbalanced by increased Post Office business.

The House of Lords has followed the unusual course of devoting two sittings to the discussion of housing conditions. The debate was opened by the Bishop of Southwark who, by quoting from reports from the Medical Officers of Health, demonstrated that the slum problem has scarcely been affected by subsidized houses built for comparatively high rents since the war. He urged the Government to introduce a Housing Bill which would enable slum tenants to acquire new houses at a rent of 7s. 6d. a week, and thus bridge the gap between the 11s. a week house—the smallest which can be economically built-and the 7s. 6d. a week rent—the largest which a slum tenant can be expected to pay from his wages. Lord Marley, in replying, said that the Government had in prepara-tion a housing Bill which would make a "frontal attack" on the slum problem, and "that the Govern-ment would introduce their Bill into the House of Commons very shortly indeed."

The fall of the Spanish dictatorship has disturbed Spain more than six whole years of unconstitutional government, and General Berenguer finds it almost as

difficult to restore regular government as his predecessor. By way of an experiment in the exercise of free speech, Señor Sanchez Guerra was allowed to address a public meeting. He practically advocated the institution of a Republic, and as these were the opinions of an old-fashioned Conservative statesman, General Berenguer may be forgiven for fearing a wide-spread effervescence if he allowed a general freedom of assembly and gave the Press complete liberty. The censorship is still rigidly exercised, and there seems no doubt whatever that the monarchy is passing through a trying time. The Marquis de Santa Cruz, President of the College of Grandees, has been asked in a public letter to rally the Grandees round the throne; the mere fact that such an appeal should have been issued shows that the monarchical parties are under a strong apprehension of danger. It is somewhat strange that the Marquis de Estella, the origin of all the trouble, should be living peacefully and unmolested, and that King Alfonso, obviously a victim of circumstances, should be threatened. This strange state of affairs deserves explanation.

During recent years the Republican Party in Spain has been reinforced by Socialists and Left-Wing parties; but it has never lost its rather aristocratic colouring. It was formed, many years ago, by those nobles and wealthy middle-class citizens who despaired of ever seeing a Spanish monarchy free of clerical influence; and to-day it is still a "gentlemanly" party. A member of the College of Grandees and a very large number of Conservatives were present when Señor Sanchez Guerra delivered his speech. So long as constitutional practices were maintained, it was always possible for the King to keep on diplomatic terms with these courteous Republicans, and King Alfonso was wise enough to do so. He never kept Republican nobles away from the Court, and went shooting on the estates of a prominent member of a Republican society. The results were excellent, and there was always a fissure between those Spaniards who maintained that a Republic was the best form of government and those who really wished to establish one. But six years of unconstitutional rule have upset these old checks and balances, and it is at present quite uncertain how the growing ferment will end.

A minor victim of the short-lived United Empire Party was the proprietor of the SATURDAY REVIEW. Last week, this gentleman expressed his sympathy with the new Party, and-to quote his own words in a letter to the TIMES—" an ambiguity in one of Lord Beaverbrook's newspapers precipitated a crisis." He had not anticipated that his expression of sympathy would immediately lead to a headline that the SATURDAY REVIEW had decided to adhere to the United Empire In the event, his distinguished Editor, Mr. Gerald Barry, resigned, with the entire editorial staff and leading contributors. This spirited and courageous step will be applauded by all who value independence and dignity in the journalistic profession, and it is pleasant to record that Mr. Barry has already been appointed Editor of the WEEK-END REVIEW, a new 6d. weekly, the first number of which will appear on Friday, March 14th. The former editorial staff and contributors of the SATURDAY REVIEW are actively associated with Mr. Barry in the new publication, to which we wish all success. Some sympathy may, however, be spared for the proprietor of the SATURDAY REVIEW, who seems to have got into trouble through taking the United Empire Party too seriously.

WILL AMERICA OUTLAW WAR?

THE interruption of the Naval Conference by a domestic crisis in French politics has given time, in all the countries participating, for uneasy reflection on the prospects of the Conference itself. It is significant that, in such public discussion as has taken place, a new prominence has been given to the suggestion of a Five-Power Pact on the Pacific model.

The emphasis laid, unofficially, on this proposal, is mainly due to the attitude of France. France, at the present moment, holds the key position among the Five Powers. As between the British Empire, the United States, and Japan, it is practically certain that an agreement could be reached; for although the ratio issue is still open between the United States and Japan, it has been so far narrowed that it is difficult to conceive a break-down arising from failure to devise a compromise formula. Even the Italian claim to de jure parity with France seems likely to prove a less formidable obstacle, in practice, than at first appeared.

No agreement, however, from which France is excluded, can be satisfactory, and the last act of the French delegation, before the Conference was interrupted, was to table a schedule of tonnage requirements which may reopen the question of a capital ship holiday, and of cruiser quotas, and which forbids, as it stands, any thought of reductions in submarines or destroyers. The new delegation, with M. Dumesnil upon it, is likely to be stiffer rather than less stiff in its attitude than the old.

From the first, the French have made it abundantly clear that behind all their demands, behind their technical arguments, and behind their attitude of suspicion, if not of indifference, towards the Conference as a whole, there lay one question—the question of security. To put it bluntly, the French Government and the French people do not feel that the security given by the Covenant and the Peace Pact is sufficiently substantial to justify the acceptance of serious strategical risks. Again and again they have hinted that a Mediterranean Locarno, or still better, a Five-Power Guarantee, is the one substitute for armed strength that would enable them to make a substantial modification in their demands.

A Mediterranean Locarno is a very unlikely result of the Conference. Great Britain is not in a mood to undertake additional regional commitments of this type. American interests are not sufficiently involved for the United States to "entangle" herself in such an agreement. The proposed Five-Power Pact would be at once wider and less definite. It would provide, like the Four-Power Pact in the Pacific, that, if war should be threatened, the signatories should at once consult together as to what steps could be taken to avert the outbreak.

There are two questions to be asked about this proposal. Is it feasible? Would it give France the feeling of security she demands?

The answer to the former question turns mainly on the attitude of the United States. American

opinion has accepted the Pacific Pact, somewhat reluctantly, because of the extent of American interests in the Pacific. The new proposal raises at once the bogy of European entanglements.

But has the United States no interests in Europe? She has hundreds of millions of pounds invested in European industries. She is set upon a limitation and reduction of naval armaments which depends upon agreement between the European Powers. No big war can break out in Europe without inflicting serious injury on her commerce, and, as Senator Walsh has recently pointed out, the diplomatic defence of her commerce may drag her, against her will, into a European war from whose origins she has stood rigidly aloof.

"Splendid isolation" is, in fact, no more possible for the United States than for Great Britain. She has become, for good or ill, an active member of the community of nations, liable to be affected by every catastrophe to the other members of that community, and with implicit obligations towards them.

In the international, as in national communities, the development of law has preceded the development of the judiciary, and the growth of the judiciary has preceded the growth of an executive. The community of nations to-day resembles, curiously, the commonwealth of independent freeholders in Iceland of the saga period. There was an elaborate law in Iceland; there was provision for judicial and arbitrational tribunals; but there was no executive with power to enforce the law. If a wrongdoer resisted the judgment of the Courts, the one weapon at the disposal of the community was outlawry. A man declared outlaw was put outside the pale of law and society. No man was obliged to take up arms against him; but if his private enemy should slay him, no blood feud could be founded on the killing; no fine was payable. More, it was an offence to give him shelter; to aid or comfort him with food, or drink, or firing.

To-day, there is a law of nations-largely customary, like all early law. There are international tribunals-the Council of the League to which the United States is not a party; the Permanent Court, to which she is. But there is no international executive; no international police. A majority of the Powers have bound themselves, by the Covenant, to cut off all intercourse with an aggressor-to declare him, in fact, an outlaw. They are now discussing the project, which Mr. J. M. Keynes describes on another page of this issue, for giving financial assistance to the victim of aggression. The United States stands aloof. At this very moment, the League Powers are considering how to bring any breach of the Peace Pact-to which the United States is a leading party-within the framework of the sanctions machinery, and their difficulties are immensely increased because the whole effect of economic sanctions may be frustrated if the United States does not co-operate, and because any enforcement of economic sanctions by naval power may awake the old controversies over American neutral rights.

Now it is clear that the United States will not bind herself to take up arms against an aggressor, and will not bind herself to accept the decision of the League, to which she is not a party, as to the merits of a dispute. But can Americans claim, in logic, or in fairness, the right to aid and assist, with supplies and shipping, an outlaw of the Society of nations? Can they refuse, having already agreed to participate in the work of the International Court, to co-operate in dealing with non-justiciable disputes? The Pact now proposed would bind her to nothing but the discussion of means for preventing war. It may frankly be recognized that such discussion would render it morally impossible for her to insist on trading with a State that had refused all proffered means of conciliation. For this reason, France should find in such a Pact a sufficient guarantee for the security she desires; for it is hard to conceive any aggressor so mad as to face the prospect of an outlawry in which the United States was even a passive participant. For the same reason the Pact would diminish the likelihood of the United States becoming entangled in a European conflict. Any such conflict must threaten her isolation. Her closer co-operation in the work of preserving peace would render the menace of war infinitely more remote.

It is natural enough that Americans, secure in their geographical aloofness and comparative economic self-sufficiency, should find it hard to understand the emphasis, bred of bitter experience, which European nations place on material guarantees. But many Americans are beginning to realize that they too share, in some measure, the risks to which war may expose those States if disarmament is not accompanied by firmer guarantees of peace. No one can force the hand of the United States; but may we not hope that the American people will, of their own accord, give the greatest possible impetus to disarmament by cooperating in the next step towards the organization of the community of nations?

MR. BALDWIN'S SURRENDER

VENTS have moved swiftly in the recapture of the Tory Party by the out-and-out Protectionists. On February 5th, Mr. Baldwin made a full-dress speech to his supporters, at the London Coliseum, in which he demanded "a free hand from the country in safeguarding the manufacturers of this country," with "power to retaliate" on foreign tariffs, but he added that he was "not proposing to tax food." On February 18th, Lord Beaverbrook launched the United Empire Party, which was to contest half the constituencies in Great Britain on a platform built up on an imperial zollverein for this country and the Crown Colonies, with "a limited partnership between Great Britain and the Dominions." On the following day, Lord Rothermere announced the adhesion of himself and his newspapers to the new Party, and proceeded at once to enlarge the policy into a comprehensive programme. At first Mr. Baldwin was defiant. He issued a damaging and disparaging criticism of the United Empire policy, while his lieutenants at the Conservative Central Office were definitely rude. On February 26th, however, Sir Robert Horne made a speech which looked uncommonly like a bid for the Tory Leadership. Why, he asked, should they go to an election pledged to taxes on foreign food until it was known that the Dominions were ready to

meet us with some suitable arrangements as to our manufactures? And why, on the other hand, should they declare at this moment against duties on foreign food when there might be compensating advantages available to us which would demonstrably put out of the question any danger of an increase in the cost of the food of the people? These questions, or Sir Robert Horne's challenge to his leadership, were too much for Mr. Baldwin, and on March 4th, just two weeks after the launching of the United Empire Party, he surrendered.

The form of Mr. Baldwin's capitulation is a good deal more mischievous than a direct retreat. Let us quote his words:—

"There will be no food tax at the General Election, and the people of this country will never have to pay a food tax unless they so decide it themselves. The first business that will lie before us if we are returned to power will be to summon unconditionally a conference of the Empire to discuss these economic subjects and to get something done. We cannot say now. We have no idea of the lines the discussions may take and what may emerge from those discussions. I would rather not conjecture. . . . And if as a result of those discussions there should emerge any form of agreement, arrangement, treaty, whatever you like to call it, that does give us great benefits, and that demands in return a tax on some article of food from a foreign country or taxes on some articles—that whole issue can be put clearly before our people. They would be able to judge for themselves whether it is to their advantage to say 'Aye' or 'No.'"

In short, Mr. Baldwin proposes to arrange a treaty with the Dominions and then submit it to a referendum. We can imagine no process more menacing to the stability of an Empire which is based upon mutual good will. In this very speech from which we have been quoting, Mr. Baldwin expressed the opinion that "Imperial matters being treated as the shuttlecock of our party politics might do damage to Imperial relations that would last, perhaps, for a generation." But what conceivable method could be more damaging than that which he has now sponsored? A tariff treaty with the Dominions based on the taxation of Great Britain's food and raw materials would inevitably be rejected on a referendum by the people of this country. There is nothing more certain in the political sphere than that. "Very good," says Mr. Baldwin. "Then the question would be settled, and the Tory Government could carry on with the rest of its policy." We cannot stay now to analyze this grotesque distortion of British constitutional practice. For the moment we are only concerned with its reaction on Imperial relations. What will be the feelings of the Dominions if they are invited to spend weary months in drawing up an economic treaty which is then summarily rejected by the people of Great Britain? The rejection of a treaty is always a serious matter, but in such circumstances, with the inevitable accompaniment of flag-wagging, tub-thumping, Jingo speeches, in which we should be told that the whole future of the Empire was at stake, it would be little short of disastrous.

It is now clear that the weakness and irresponsibility of Mr. Baldwin are a public danger. His rapid surrender to the Press Lords is bad enough, for they will be encouraged in the belief that a fortnight's combined campaigning on any subject will bring the Tory leader to heel. That, however, is a matter of domestic politics within the Conservative Party. A far more serious danger arises when a man in the responsible position of Leader of the Opposition throws out at random, as a casual sop to the malcontents in his own Party, a project for a constitutional revolution which is fraught with danger to our own institutions, and gravely menaces the stability of the Empire.

THE DRAFT CONVENTION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

T the tenth Assembly of the League of Nations held last September, the so-called Draft Convention for Financial Assistance received some preliminary discussion. It is now under further consideration by Committees of the League in preparation for its being brought up again at a later date. Yet the public pays little heed. It may be that the title of this proposal arouses no expectation of anything which could have interest for the generality. But whatever the reason may be, the project has received remarkably less attention from the Press than its signal importance deserves. For it represents one of the most important practical proposals which have ever come before the League of Nations. Let me, therefore, try to explain what it amounts to.

Since the conception of the League of Nations was first born, the question of what sanctions the League could employ whereby to enforce its decisions has been of vital importance. Yet it has been so difficult to suggest any convincing solution that there has been a natural inclination on the part of friends of the League-a tendency which is reflected in the terms of the Covenant itself-to push into the background this issue of how, in the last resort, the League is to enforce its will.

Some have thought that the formation of some kind of armed international force would prove, eventually, to be indispensable—a view which has found its main adherents, I fancy, in France. The English mind has turned rather to the possibility of an economic blockade, which the other members of the League would undertake to use their authority and power to enforce against a Power whom the League had declared to be the aggressor.

The grave objections to an armed international force are quite obvious. Even apart from the recurrent expense involved in times of peace, it is difficult to suppose that the practical obstacles could be overcome. As for the economic blockade, it is open to the objection that it would involve on the part of members of the League, who might be but little concerned with the quarrel, a greater degree of belligerence than they would care to pledge themselves to in advance or to undertake when the time came. For in modern conditions an economic blockade, however limited in its scope, could scarcely be enforced by purely peaceful methods.

Now the great virtue of the Draft Convention for Financial Assistance is that it turns away from negative remedies to positive remedies, and, instead of endeavouring to visit punishment on the aggressor, limits itself to giving positive assistance of a purely pacific character to

the injured party. Its details run as follows.

The Project of Financial Assistance proposes that a cut and dried scheme should be drawn up beforehand whereby the Council of the League would have power and authority to offer foreign financial resources with the least possible delay to the party in a dispute which it considered to be the aggrieved party. It is an essential of the proposal that the lines on which this financial assistance is to be given should be drawn up in the most definite possible manner beforehand, so that there would be no necessity to enter into negotiations with the several guaranteeing parties when a dispute was already on the horizon, and no doubts or unnecessary delays in according the actual assistance.

The project lays it down, therefore, that the Council of the League shall be given authority to issue an Inter-

national Loan in the leading money markets of the world, guaranteed by the members of the League who enter into the scheme (for it is not necessary to the project that every member of the League should participate in it), in proportion to their normal contributions to the League. In order to add further to the financial security of the loan it is suggested that, in addition to the guarantees of the participant members of the League, each of which would be limited to a certain percentage of the loan, there should also be an over-riding guarantee given by the financially stronger members, each for a certain quota, so that in the event of any of the financially weaker members of the League defaulting in their guarantee the financially stronger countries would take over the liability. League Loan would therefore have, first of all, the guarantee of the borrowing party; behind this the guarantee of the various members of the League participating in the Convention; and finally, in the event of emergency, an over-riding guarantee on the part of the financially strong countries. Unquestionably, therefore, the loans to be issued would be of first-class character and capable of being floated at a reasonable price even in a disturbed atmosphere.

All this having been arranged beforehand every party to the project having agreed as to what his quota should be, and the actual form of the necessary legal documents having been drawn up to the last word so that the Loan could be launched immediately upon the Council coming to a decision—the Council of the League is then to have absolute discretion to afford this assistance not only in the actual event of war, but (to quote the actual phrase) "the financial assistance provided by the present Convention shall be given in any case of war or threat of war in which the Council of the League of Nations decides that, as a measure to restore or safeguard the peace of nations, such assistance shall be accorded to a high contracting party involved in the war or threat of war." That is to say, the contingency in which financial assistance can be granted is not linked up with any of the clauses of the Covenant, nor with any definite criteria of aggression such as were drafted in the ill-fated Protocol. The present proposal is of a wider character. Very general discretion is given to the Council to afford financial assistance to any aggrieved party under threat of war, to whom

it thinks it appropriate to give it.

The main weakness of the scheme is to be found in a feature which is, I suppose, inevitable at the present stage of evolution of the whole working of the League of Nations; namely, in the provision that financial assistance can only be accorded by the Council by a unanimous vote, that is to say, unanimous apart from the parties actively interested in the dispute. From the practical point of view it would clearly be much better if such assistance could be afforded by some substantial majority, such as a twothirds majority. For with international politics as they now are, there can never be a certainty that the parties who are actively concerned in the dispute may not have friends on the Council who may be secondarily interested and will use their position to obstruct action. Regarded as a first step, however, I daresay that the requirement of a unanimous vote may be wise, though the value of the scheme would be materially greater if action could be taken in response to a preponderating, though not unanimous, balance of world opinion.

The Draft Convention does not mention a specific figure for the amount of financial assistance up to which the Council is to have these discretionary powers. That is to be settled at a later stage. But evidently it will not be worth while to set up an elaborate machinery of the kind proposed unless some fairly substantial sum is in view. Let us discuss it on the basis of the maximum sum, disposable by the Council of the League under this Convention, being of the order of £50,000,000 or \$250,000,000. As we will show in a moment, this would be for practical purposes a very large sum indeed. But the actual burden which it might throw on any contributory guarantor would be extremely moderate. At 6 per cent. (for interest and sinking fund) the annual service on £50,000,000 would be £3,000,000 altogether; but even in the event of the recipient countries' defaulting for the whole amount, the burden would be divided between a large number of countries-so that the actual annual amount which, at the worst, a country would have to provide which was a one-tenth contributor would amount to no more than £300,000 a year, a very trifling sum for a Great Power, if the provision of it is capable of making a serious difference to the prospects of war and peace. On the other hand, £50,000,000 is a very large sum indeed-I should expect that much less would be required in any ordinary circumstances-in relation to the contingencies of anything but a very great and prolonged war. Let me illustrate this by a figure which may be unfamiliar and surprising to most people, but which is, I think, convincing.

The whole of the amount borrowed by Great Britain during the late war in neutral countries-that is to say, elsewhere than in the U.S.-amounted from first to last to no more than £42,000,000. This was the aggregate of the whole amount of the loans which by all her efforts Great Britain was able to borrow in the neutral countries

of Europe and elsewhere.

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It is easy from this to appreciate the magnitude and the reality of the help which a provision of £50,000,000 would mean to any minor country which was threatened by war. Indeed, I venture to say that in many cases the possibility of such assistance would have a decisive effect and would compel the aggressor to bow to the will of the League of Nations. J. M. KEYNES.

> (To be concluded.) (Convright in all countries.)

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

RNEST BROWN, primed as always with exclusive inside information, has informed the House that there is no coal in heaven. "That," said the President of the Board of Trade, " is the most encouraging thing that I have heard in the course of these long discussions." The fact is that we are all getting a little tired of coal. To which the miners of Great Britain might reply in the words of Rostand's Grenadier :-

Et nous, les petits, les obscurs, les sans-grades, Nous qui marchions fourbus, blessés, crottés, malades, . . . maigres, nus, noirs, et gais, Nous, nous ne l'étions pas, peut-être, fatigués? "

For myself, I seem to have been listening all the week to Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister. Even in my dreams he has continued: sometimes in the guise of Browning's thrush,

"He sings each song twice over,

Lest you should think he never could recapture

The first fine careless rapture '

sometimes as Tennyson's Brook he gurgles cheerfully over the stones towards the sea: but most often he is the Euclidean straight line-length without breadth or depth, infinitely producible.

But these dreams were not really fair to Sir Philip. After all, as an ex-President of the Board of Trade he

was bound to intervene frequently, and reiteration is at least one method of achieving emphasis. I should rather have dreamed that this was a Tory Bill (which is just what it looks like); that Sir Philip was in charge of it; and that I could hear Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Bevan denouncing him as a fine blend of Hatry and Henry VIII., and the quota as a vile plot hatched by a reactionary Government to bolster up a decaying capitalist system.

All through Tuesday and Wednesday we were just sparring. Everyone expected Wednesday's programme to run on into the eggs and bacon of Thursday morning. Therefore, with true Parliamentary perversity, it petered out at a quarter to ten. This rapid progress was partly due to the skilful play of the Attorney-General, who once again came into the Socialist side as emergency full-back and brought off some brilliant tackles, his victims including Sir Boyd Merriman and our own sturdy Nathan, who caused a certain amount of apprehension among his friends by picking up the ball in the loose and trying to charge through on his own.

The debate was yet further curtailed by the sad accident which befell Sir Basil Peto. He had just gone to the library for five minutes to polish his periods in preparation for four fine amendments which stood in his name upon the Order Paper. But during that brief absence they were all called and struck out for want of a sponsor. Now he is going about with four speeches bottled up inside him, and one of two things must happen. Either they will break out on him like a kind of rash, or else he will manage to hold them in until Report Stage-when there will be, appropriately enough, a loud explosion.

The real fight came on Clem Davies's motion to omit the word "production" from the Bill, and thereby destroy the whole basis of the quota system. Mr. Davies is to be congratulated on the really remarkable skill with which he concentrated the whole essence of a big argument into ten forcible minutes. Subsequently the Government made up a good deal of lost ground. On second reading they had been out-boxed and out-fought at every point, as has been recorded in these notes; it is therefore only fair to admit their recovery in these later rounds.

To begin with, Mr. Bevan made a remarkable speech. He has debating powers of a high order, and only at the end he lost control a little; his voice rose a couple of tones and his matter and style descended correspondingly. This was the part which his comrades liked most, but it is certainly not what he does best, and we should like to hear such a speaker always at his best. It should be recorded that though this speech was provocative and personal, it was received with patience and attention.

Mr. Lloyd George, on the other hand, from the moment that he rose to reply, was subjected to a constant succession of imbecile Socialist interruptions. These came from only about a dozen of the party, and those not of the Left Wing, who have been trained by Mr. Maxton in his own admirable Parliamentary manners. Labour members as a whole should begin to realize that their prestige cannot be advanced by catcalls.

The Liberal leader contented himself with a plain and solid presentment of the case against the Bill without any trimmings, and was supported by Mr. Milner Gray in his best form. On the other side Mr. Graham, possibly because he was very near a physical breakdown which all the House understands and condoles with, was more human and therefore more effective than ever before. But I would give the honours of the whole debate to the veteran Hartshorn. Mr. Lloyd George, who has so dominated this Parliament, can afford to yield the palm for once to a foeman worthy of his steel. If I have made no reference to the Tory speakers, it is because this was our battle and, owing to a few faint hearts, our defeat. By nine votes, which by the transfer of the four given to the Government would have been reduced to one.

In addition certain front-bench Liberal members thought it their duty to abstain from voting. That one can understand. But need they have sat primly in their places throughout the division like a set of waxwork George Washingtons? All parties have their laundry. We alone hang it on the front bench to dry. It is rumoured that one of these members actually made a long journey in order to come and abstain from voting. If so he takes pride of place as a curiosity even over Mr. Wheatley, who spoke against the quota and voted for it, or Sir S. Roberts, who spoke for the quota and voted against it.

The Advertisements (Regulation) Bill on Friday could only be an anti-climax after these events. No one seemed to love it very much, and at ten minutes past one precisely the House mysteriously emptied and was counted out. The count is a pleasant but immoral institution. Members are presumably paid to be in their places, but by not being so they can earn themselves a half-holiday. I could have wished that this resource had been available in my younger days. When called upon to construe "Arma virumque cano," how magnificent, instead of venturing upon "Arms and poison for the dog," or any similarly hazardous conjecture, to have said with simple dignity, "Sir, I beg to call your attention to the fact that there are not forty boys present "—and so to the Nets or the Bathing Place!

Monday is becoming the fixed occasion for a weekly remnant sale of supplementary estimates which Mr. Pethick Lawrence does not set much store by, and generally leaves to some colleague to dispose of. The only article of value this week was Mr. Frank Owen's maiden speech on Forestry. This, however, was a real treasure. In voice, manner, application and enthusiasm he has all the foundations of parliamentary success. There is nothing wrong with Young Liberalism.

ERIMUS.

YET ANOTHER REFORM

WAS speaking to-day with a coke-heaver employed at one of our London gas-works. He is an old friend whose whitlows, colds, and backaches I have treated a score of times. He is a quiet, pleasant, mannerly, conservative, thoroughly reliable workman, who thanks God every day that he is in a regular job. He has a wife and five children, and his wages are £2 7s. a week. If he sticks with the company for another fifteen years his wages will rise to £3 5s., and he will then be fifty-seven.

This man was off work recently with multiple boils, which required a lot of treatment, but, of course, he is "on the panel." When his wife takes ill, or when one of his children takes chicken-pox or an alarming feverish attack, the doctor must needs be sent for, and, of course, paid for. How often has one been called in to similar families to find a child has had pneumonia for two days! The mother "thought the child would get well," by which she meant that she hoped and prayed that she would not

have to find the doctor's fee (for in our district folk are more moral than in Kensington and pay the fee on the nail). When one has to budget for a total of £2 7s. a week, doctors' fees can hardly be included in the estimates. Just how such a mother finds half a dozen half-crowns (the usual fee here) for half a dozen visits is something which the doctor turns away from examining too closely. Of course, he could visit for nothing, but in our dockland area nearly every family is in the same boat. He must needs keep his charity for those who are worse off still.

There are hospitals—yes, and good ones where waitingroom must be written with a very large "W." This will
necessarily be so as long as the old-fashioned conception
of a hospital as a place for anyone sick prevails, and is
combined with schemes such as the Hospitals Savings
Association intended for collecting weekly subscriptions
from every workman largely by the sentimental appeal of
"the ever-open door." A working mother, in order to
see a doctor, often spends the greater part of a day in a
packed out-patient waiting-room with a child with incipient
measles, spreading it all around. One finds it difficult to
speak calmly of this dangerous and truly idiotic practice
which turns our great hospitals into up-to-date factories
for the rapid spread of all the common infections.

There is ample evidence that very few go to hospital by choice in preference to a private doctor. In industrial neighbourhoods, where only two persons in every five (i.e., those who are out at work and over sixteen) are on doctors' panels, a doctor sees approximately twice as many panel patients as private ones. When the father or eldest son, who are entitled to panel treatment, take influenza or tonsillitis, they send for their doctor, but when the mother or the school children, who are not, similarly take ill, they go to the hospital. Wives frequently send for me for their husbands on a raw winter's day. After examining and naming a magic word such as "bronchitis," the wife has often turned to me and said, "I thought so, doctor; you see I've got the same, but I go up to the hospital-the pence won't allow of having you home." How one loves this candour!

Hospitals are no longer just dormitories to house the sick or consulting-rooms in which to prescribe drugs—not even principally these. Is a tumour a wart or a cancer? A section must be made, laid in wax, stained, and examined microscopically. Is this a case of abscess of the brain or a sleepy-sickness? Spinal fluid must be centrifuged, tested, stained, and microscoped. Is this cantering rhythm in a heart serious or of no importance? A photograph of the heart's beats must be made with a machine which costs a fortune. Then there are X-ray, light, heat, massage-rooms, and gymnasia, and half a dozen other expensive departments, ancillary to modern surgery and medicine. These are more distinctively the hospital than all the shiny wards where one tip-toes between the beds to leave the Sunday afternoon chrysanthemums.

To their chief function of diagnosing the difficult or treating the exceptional—those patients requiring intensive specialization or expensive apparatus—, the largest hospitals add the problem of providing a liberal training for students, doctors, and nurses. The time has come for us to ask intelligently what purposes we intend our hospitals to serve. Those "honoraries"—the flower of the younger medical men—who sit from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. seeing all who care to call on them have no time to investigate or teach. One may inspect an army, but one can only learn the secrets of a few. So long as the doctors are aiming at making hospital treatment more intensive and the organizers of hospitals for money-raising reasons are aiming at making it more extensive—vying with the most advanced advertisers

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in offering the largest benefits to the greatest numbersso long will our hospital system be ineffective and incapable of providing economically either beds for the many or diagnosis for the few. If we are to get fair value for money spent on hospitals or on the people's health in general a system of selection is essential. Some of the largest hospitals exhibit notices stating that panel patients (except in case of accident) can only be seen on bringing a letter from their doctor. This is helpful, but applies only to twofifths of the industrial population. The rest-that section most prone to epidemics of the household kind-are allowed to besiege the hospital gates to the detriment of the institution and themselves. I have known quite a number of mothers whose only child suffered from some well-known, easily detectable but incurable disease, such as a birth-palsy, who have wandered from hospital to hospital in search of a healing balm that none could give, until hospital-tasting seemed to have become their life's work. We may well pity such mothers, but more pitiful still is the thought that they used the time which dozens of doctors might have spent on some real work of discovery and cure. Even less excusable are those cases in which, after long and costly collaboration of surgeon, radiologist, and pathologist, a sure diagnosis is reached, and the same process is repeated again and again as the unsatisfied patient visits hospital after hospital in hope of getting someone to say that there is something serious, or, perhaps, that there is nothing the matter. One man I knew with a stone in his kidney had it X-rayed at five hospitals before deciding that he would not allow a surgeon to touch it! Out-patient waiting-rooms are half-filled by those with trivial ailments and mild infections, or by others who think that " it costs nothing just to get the opinion of another doctor." The modern hospital is unsuited for the treatment of influenza, measles, mumps, and whooping-cough, and to go on seeing these cases in out-patient departments is very wasteful, and sometimes criminal. The more cases seen at hospitals which would be better treated at home, the less time, room, and money will the hospitals have for that indispensable service for which they are specially designed.

Few would suggest that National Health Insurance should be swept away. It is based on a sound knowledge of the workman's means and ways-he will not, or, perhaps, he cannot save enough to pay for a doctor, but he will surely need one-and what of his wife and children? Threepence per week per person is the cost of medical treatment and medicines for those at present insured. Some twenty millions of the working classes, chiefly wives and children, are not covered by any scheme of health insurance, and if these were brought under our existing national system I believe the £12 million per annum would be well invested. Any sane man must hesitate before suggesting any additions to the swelling tide of commitments for social service, but it seems probable that even if the taxpayer had to meet half the expense of medical treatment for these wives and children he would not, ultimately, be out of pocket. The saving on the Poor Law would be considerable; the voluntary hospitals would be relieved and set free for their special tasks, and the improvement in the general health would be very great. efficiency through ill-health might perhaps be halved.

Other countries have provided Health Insurance for the workmen's dependants, and we lose while we lag behind. The Government might well consider whether the voters would not love them better for making statesmanlike provision for ill-health throughout every labourer's family rather than throwing a few sugar-lumps to young persons unemployed. THE PATH OF SAFETY

EDITOR: You are not taking proper advantage of your opportunities. What about Mr. Churchill's speech to the Navy League on armaments and security?

MACFLECKNOE: I said the last word on that subject sixteen years ago in "War and Peace, A Norman Angell Monthly."

EDITOR: Right you are then: chuck it over.

MACFLECKNOE: Your readers don't want resurrection pie.

EDITOR: You flatter yourself; no one remembers a word of it.

MACFLECKNOE: Very well, it is your copyright and your risk. I don't mind being lazy.

"The way to make war impossible is to be so strong as to make victory certain."—Mr. Winston Churchill, 1914.

Two jolly German Barons lived in castles by the Rhine—
The noble Lord von Donnerblitz, the Graf von

Schlagenstein:
Though truculent and haughty, they had been at peace

for years,
For each was rather chary of the other's fifty spears:

Till the stayand of you Donnarblitz observed to him on

Till the steward of von Donnerblitz observed to him one day,

"Through worry over Schlagenstein your hair is turning grey;

With this absurd equality of force, one never knows
But what some trivial incident may see us changing
blows.

"A learned man once told me, and I'm sure that he was right,

'To the teeth you must be armed if you are anxious not to fight;

If you feel no taste for quarrels where the parties stab and hack,

You must be so strong that nobody can possibly attack.'

"If another fifty lances you permit me to engage,
You will never need to worry over neighbours in a rage;
In the peace of perfect safety we may cultivate the vine,
And you need not care a pfennig for the Graf von
Schlagenstein."

"Well said," exclaimed his master, "What a head the man has got!

Go forth, my faithful henchman, and enlist them on the spot."

But this little conversation, by a traitor overheard, Next morning to his rival was repeated, every word.

" Potztausend!" quoth the latter, "What the rascal says is true.

is true,
If you'd keep at peace with one, you must be strong enough for two;

So to put an end to panics, to suspicions, doubts and fears, We'll increase at once our forces by a hundred lusty spears."

On this, of course, his neighbour found a similar increase Had imposed itself upon him—in the interests of peace. So he hired some English archers at a record-breaking salary

And re-fortified his castle with a machicoulis gallery.

To-day each pays the wages of a thousand men-at-arms, Yet neither knows a respite from suspicions and alarms; And still two bankrupt barons are recruiting by the Rhine— The noble Lord von Donnerblitz, the Graf von Schlagenstein.

J. A. G.

MACFLECKNOE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VAIN TERRORS

SIR,—I hate to see my fellow-creatures afflicted with phobias, and wonder if I might be allowed to use the columns of THE NATION to remove three of the latter, and bring peace to the minds of many respectable and innocent people who have lately filled the Press with their cries?

The first phobia is a belief that the League of Nations, in some mysterious way, will land Great Britain, against her will, in war with America. The League, it is supposed, will make Great Britain blockade somebody under Article XVI., and the blockade will produce a rupture with the United States.

Article XVI. provides that, if a nation makes war in breach of its Covenant, the League, instead of using violence, should merely refuse to furnish it with supplies, since without supplies from abroad no modern war can be successful. An excellent principle; but how is it to be carried out? Only by joint action. It is no use one Power boycotting the aggressor; the whole League must do so together. Furthermore, it is no use the League proclaiming an official boycott unless it is enforced: that is, there must be a legal blockade to check supplies coming from smugglers and from nations not members of the League. That is to say, as is clearly stated in the interpretations of Article XVI. drawn up by the juridical committee, the blockade can only be started by a resolution of the Council, which must, of course, be unanimous. Moreover, this Resolution, even though unanimous, has no compulsive force on any nation; it is to be treated only as "a weighty recommendation."

Let us consider what this means. A war has broken out; the Council is in session; the attitude of America is uncertain; the question of proclaiming a blockade is raised. First, will anyone who knows the Council, or who knows anything of human nature, imagine that fourteen nations will leap unanimously at the opportunity of wrecking their own export trade and dislocating their whole commerce in order to stop a war which does not immediately affect them? Secondly, apart from considerations of trade, can anyone imagine that the representative of Great Britain will vote for a step which may involve a clash with America without first finding out the views of the American Government? Yet it is only by a combination of these two impossibilities that the supposed danger of war with America could arise. And even then it would be no real danger. For before the recommendation of the Council could be acted upon by Great Britain it would have to be considered and approved by the British Government. The whole alarm is moonshine.

The second phobia is a horror of the word "sanctions" based, I think, on a confusion between a sanction and a punishment. If the law is: Do not walk on the grass: then it is a sanction to put a beadle there, to turn people off: the punishment, if there is one, will be something quite different, shooting the offender at dawn, or fining him a shilling, or leaving him to the horrors of his conscience. Article XVI. proposes a sanction behind the prohibition of war; i.e., a method of securing that the prohibited war shall not continue. When the war stops the boycott stops. Some people talk as if it were a proposal for starving a whole population in cold blood because they had been so wicked!

The third phobia is a belief that somehow the blockade, if it ever occurred, would put an unfair and intolerable burden on the British Navy. In reality the British Navy is probably the one set of people who would enjoy it. The whole burden, a very heavy one, would fall on the trading community. The British Navy would undertake just as much of the work as the British Government chose, and, to judge from the naval officers I know, would consider it a light sporting job and an agreeable diversion.

The real weakness of Article XVI. is not that it is too drastic; it is that it requires a most improbable standard of self-sacrifice in fourteen unanimous Governments before it can be put into action. As a matter of fact, in the two cases where hostilities have actually broken out, the bombarding of Corfu and the Greek invasion of Bulgaria, the Council employed quite different methods of restoring the peace.—Yours, &c.,

GILBERT MURRAY.

THE QUOTA DIVISION

SIR,—In view of what have seemed like attempts in the Press to make difficulties in the Liberal Parliamentary party over their divergence of view on the coal quota question, may I say how it strikes a Liberal outsider; prefacing only with the fact that had I been in the House still I think I should have voted with the majority?

As I see it:-

 Since the General Election the Liberal Party in the House of Commons has been doing quite magnificent work, for which I am very grateful, and the whole country ought to be.

All three lines of action on the coal quota division were absolutely right!

The four who supported the Government may quite honourably have given pledges to their electors (such as not to endanger any measure which might make for shorter hours) which they were bound to implement.

The eight who abstained had to judge between two perfectly good points. One is that it was unwise to defeat a Government on an important issue at an important time, the other that it is a bad thing to give bad mines a statutory right to be supported at the public expense. They thought the first point more important than the second. With the possibility of, inter alia, Winston coming back can one be sure they were wrong?

The majority of forty-two thought the second point more important than the first, holding perhaps (and surely, if so, very likely rightly) that if defeated the Government ought to be able to adapt themselves sufficiently to the three-party system to be able to carry on.

As I have said, all three of the lines of action which resulted seem to be perfectly justifiable, and I do not blame any of those who took any of them.

The only mistake any of them could make would be to quarrel about it, instead of getting on with the good work.

—Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS D. ACLAND.

P.S.—The moral is that our Parliamentary methods are not yet adapted to the three-party system, but in this matter, as in so many others, the Liberals—at their last annual Conference—have pointed out the right way.

Killerton, Exeter. March 3rd, 1930.

THE STATE AND THE SCHOOLS

SIR,-Mr. R. G. Randall's view, unless I misunderstand him, is that religious teaching of every kind can be put off till a comparatively late stage in a child's education, and that this can be done without curtailing healthy curiosity or evading reasonable questions. One may (I take him tomean) distort a child's thoughts or drench them with dope if one teaches him to believe in God and in prayer until his mind has been so far trained by observation and reasoning in other fields of knowledge that he can deliberately choose between accepting a religious belief and rejecting it. In contrast to this, I conceive that from a very early age an English child asks questions which cannot be answered without teaching him either that God exists and hears prayer, or that we do not know whether there is a God, still less whether there is a God to pray to; and therefore that the first and last things of belief, towards whatever goal the belief is directed, are implicit in the earliest stages of education, the chief object of which is the kindling and direction of the will, the will being moved by a blend of knowledge and belief. This interplay of knowledge and belief is. I suggest, so constant in our early education that we cannot confine it to the sphere of home-training, but are obliged to allow for it in school-training also, including the training given in schools which are aided by the State

If Mr. Randall's view is sound, the problem of State education is, I admit, greatly simplified. If, on the other hand, my view is nearer to the truth, we are driven to the conclusion that very different types of education must offer themselves to our choice from the earliest years of a child's life. The extremes among these different types of education are irreconcilable. They have been quarrelsome for nearly 150 years. Each in turn has tried to stamp out the other.

But personally I prefer that they should exist side by side. Each corrects the other's mistakes. Each represents a profound conviction. Social unity is strengthened when the State recognizes both and, out of a tax fund to which all contribute, enables both to reach a level of administrative excellence to which, if unaided by public money, each would be unable to attain.-Yours, &c.,

MICHAEL E. SADLER.

Oxford.

February 28th, 1930.

FLOGGING

SIR,-Mr. Rendel's interesting and revealing letter leads one to ask what should be the feeling of a decent citizen towards a fellow creature who was weak enough to commit a grave offence, and again so weak as to receive his punishment with screams? Mr. Rendel suggests loathing and contempt; some may think pity more appropriate. Mr. Rendel seems to envisage a "strong, silent Englishman" who offends as he thinks proper, and then takes his punishment "like a man." But should not punishment be reformative or deterrent? Now the strong, silent one will not be so loathsome as to be intimidated by flogging, and, indeed, if he were so, would not Mr. Rendel regard him with deserved contempt for being afraid of the cat? We thus have a punishment which is barbarously cruel to the weakling, who is very likely mentally deficient, and entirely ineffective to him who takes his punishment "like a man."

Would it not be an excellent arrangement to provide that the judge who orders flogging should inflict it himself? This would have the immense advantage of enabling the judge to indulge his righteous resentment, and at the same time relieving an innocent official from degrading himself

by brutality in cold blood .- Yours, &c.,

C. W.

SIR,-On behalf of those members of the legal profession are thankful to dissociate themselves from what Matthew Arnold (had he been living) might have styled the "Brutalitarian" section thereof, may I congratulate THE NATION on the absolutely conclusive article upon flogging which appeared in your last two issues and upon the really noble editorial on that subject contained in your last issue? -Yours, &c.,

W. J. WENHAM.

5, Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1. February 26th, 1930.

SIR,-In his first article on "The History of Flogging," February 15th, says your contributor P. M .: -

"In France and in Germany, in Switzerland and Italy, in Norway and Sweden, and in the greater part of the United States, the punishment of flogging is unknown."

And so it is in the country that lies nearest to England: Holland. If I remember well, already your famous fellow-countryman Pepys made the observation, that De Ruyter maintained good discipline without having recourse to such severe measures. But I cannot now trace the quotation.

We have, indeed, neither flogging in our Army or Navy nor at our schools. We have abolished capital punishment for nearly seventy-five years. And yet I do not think that our criminality is any the greater than in your country. -Yours, &c.,

L. SIMONS,

Editor, "The Dutch World's Library."

Den Haag.

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February 26th, 1930.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

SIR,-Let us hope that the articles in your issues of February 15th and 22nd will result in the final deletion from our Statute Book of this form of legal torture.

Our law in this matter appears to be entirely illogical. If the lash, or whip, is used as a deterrent, then it should be applied, as in Georgian days, at a cart's tail moving slowly, say, from Newgate to Tyburn and back, which

course would soon sound its knell. If it is intended to operate for purposes of revenge, then the injured party should have the privilege of being present at the time of its infliction, and of controlling the number of strokes; and since we are not a revengeful people, such a plan would likewise soon end the practice.

Our true course should be an inquiry into origins, and to this end the acute intellgences of our judges should be made use of. The origins of crime are various and might in time be ranged under definite heads such as, e.g., poverty, passion, false training and education, example, inherited duty of apportioning punishment, required to inquire and report upon these causes and origins, a most useful body of report upon these causes and origins a most useful body of information would soon be at the service of the social reformer.-Yours, &c.,

March 3rd, 1930.

CURES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

SIR,-Might I suggest in a few words what appears to be possible way of turning the present rising tide of unemployment?

The suggestion is based on the assumption that the excessive unemployment we are experiencing is due to the great disparity between wages paid in this country and those paid by our competitors in the world's markets.

The wages paid in France,* for instance, measured in terms of gold, are about one-half of those paid in this

country for the same class of labour.

I am assuming also that while there is very little possibility of an unconditional and substantial reduction in wages, there is a possibility of wages being reduced on the understanding that the cost of living would fall correspondingly.

The steps I suggest are as follows:-

1st Step.-By some legal enactment or agreement between Trade Union leaders and employers, connect all wages and salaries paid in the country with the costof-living figures.

2nd Step.—The Government pay a subsidy to all employers of labour to the extent, say, of 15 per cent. of their

wage bill.

The cost of the subsidy to be borne by raising a loan of, say, £250,000,000, which would roughly provide for a subsidy for twelve months.

The effect of the subsidy on prices would be to reduce them. The effect of the fall in prices would be a reduction in wage level in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The fall in wages would result in a still further reduction

The subsidy, together with the subsequent reduction in wages, would place home industries in a stronger competitive position than at present, and exports would tend to increase, imports to decrease, and the numbers of people employed in home industries to increase correspondingly.

When wages had fallen, say, 15 per cent., the subsidy would be adjusted with a view to keeping the cost-of-living figures at a more or less stationary level, at 15 per cent. below the present level. This might involve retaining the subsidy, say, at 5 per cent. of the wage bill for some time.

Such part of the subsidy that might continue for some time would, however, be met to a large extent by savings affected through a decrease in the number of unemployed.

I see no difficulties from a currency standpoint, and while the fall in prices would increase the real income of the rentier classes, this might be remedied to a large extent by increasing the income tax on incomes derived from debentures and preference stock, &c.

It is hardly necessary to say that the scheme roughly

outlined in the preceding paragraphs is not put forward as a method of dealing with normal unemployment.

It is generally agreed by economists that this can only be reduced along the lines of increasing the sensitiveness with which wages respond to the laws of supply and

^{*} Table I., Standard hourly wages of adult male workers in July, 1929. "International Labour Review," October, 1929. page 586.

demand, in short, by increasing the elasticity of wages; and by increasing the mobility, using the word in the widest sense, of labour.—Yours, &c.,

John P. Bibby.

King Edward Street, Liverpool.

FACTORY CLINICS

SIR,—The opening early this spring of a factory-clinic in the Swiss mountains for certain victims of tuberculosis coincides so nearly with the publication of last year's preliminary vital statistics that one may be forgiven for suggesting that the Ministry of Health might do worse than explore the possibilities of the Swiss idea for adaptation

amongst ourselves.

At Leysin, 4,500 feet above sea level, there is now being completed, under the direction of Europe's most eminent practitioner of sun-nealing, Dr. Auguste Rollier, a series of open verandah workshops several stories high. All the beds are provided with work-tables and special apparatus to allow the patients, who are surgical cases, to work in any position required for their cure. Here in the open sunlight, or, when the cold winds come, behind vita-glass windows letting in the natural ultra-violet rays, they will turn out watches, stockings, pottery, speedometers for aeroplanes and motors, and other products, all at the usual industrial rates.

I am told that the work for some time to come has

already been contracted for.

If we mean to mend the grave situation disclosed by last year's figures for births and deaths, in which the part of the white scourge must have been dire, here surely is an agency full of hope not less from the point of view of prevention than from that of actual cure.—Yours, &c.,

H. H. LAWRIE.

FERDINAND FREILIGRATH

Sir,—As your columns have always been open to serve the interests of learning and research, I venture to ask for the help of your readers in a small work which I am preparing on the London life of Ferdinand Freiligrath, who was not only a great German Liberal, an exile in England, and a brilliant translator of English poetry, but also a frequent and respected contributor to the ATHENÆUM.

The German biographers of Freiligrath tell us very little about his articles in the Athenæum, and about the mention which is made of him in various English works of biography and reminiscence. Such details can be discovered by research, but it would be of valuable assistance to me if any of your readers had recollections, direct or indirect, of

Ferdinand Freiligrath.

As he died in 1876, it might not be quite reasonable to expect that he would be personally remembered by many of your present readers, but it is quite possible that his name is not forgotten in some of the English families with which he became acquainted, and that some of his letters have been preserved, although they have not yet been published.

For any information which this appeal produces, I shall be more than grateful. When Freiligrath's first collected editions appeared in 1838, they were given an enthusiastic reception by the Athenæum, and it would be a pleasure to me to feel that The Nation and Athenæum had helped me to unearth further details about this great German Liberal who became the warm friend of so many English and Irish literary men.—Yours, &c.,

GERALD W. SPINK.

160, Bede Burn Road, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

MEREDITH IN DEVON

SIR,—Referring to the article "Meredith in Devon" in your issue of March 1st, could W. G. explain his reason for suggesting that George Meredith's poem "Love in the Valley" was written in Devon, as I have always been given to understand that it was written in the valley below Box Hill, Dorking?—Yours, &c.,

R. M. CHASE.

Red Roofs, Broxbourne, Herts. March 1st, 1930.

THOMAS RAIKES

Sir,—In conjunction with Mr. Lewis Melville, I am writing a book about my great-grandfather, Thomas Raikes, the London banker and the friend of Brummell and the Regency dandies. His "Journal" was published in 1856-57 by his daughter Harriet, who also edited her father's correspondence with the first Duke of Wellington.

I am desirous to discover the whereabouts of the manuscript of the "Journal" and to hear of any letters written

by or to him .- Yours, &c.,

ERIC VOLNY RAIKES (late Captain, 22nd Cheshire Regiment).

c o Messrs. Grindley & Co., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.1.

SUNDAYS LONG AGO

T is Sunday morning, and the somewhat unusual sight (in this superficially pagan and abandoned age) of a family passing my window, decorously dressed and carrying their Bibles and Prayer Books, has made me recall the days when I was a child, and when to awake and realize that the morning was the Sabbath was to suffer a sudden fall in spiritual temperature. Like all healthy children, I loved the early morning. The return from sleep and the discovery that a new day has been born fill me, even now, with joy and wonder. As a boy, however, I could hardly contain my rapture as I lay in bed, awaiting the signal that should summon me to life renewed after (to so fitful a sleeper) the long night. And then, on every seventh morning, came that desolating shock -the realization that it was Sunday. That realization was wholly subjective. My brain was alert and had registered its mood long before the eight o'clock bells of St. Peter's Church, which faced our house in a Victorian middle-class residential "street," proclaimed the fact of Sunday to the neighbourhood at large; and my own despondence had already gloomed for me the outside world. Our street was quiet even on week-day mornings; but on Sundays an intolerable hush seemed to pervade it. The milkman and (strangely enough in those Sabbatarian times) even the postman came as usual; but they came, to my ears, with muffled tread. I was tempted to envy them the tasks that absolved them from church or chapel attendance, until an inward fear urged me to mark their end. It might be well with the milkman and the postman now. But how, since work on Sunday was wicked, as I had been taught to believe, would they escape the Wrath to Come?

I am writing of thirty-odd years ago and of the same Midland city in which, still thirty years earlier, Mr. H. W. Nevinson spent his childhood. This veteran fighter for freedom suffered the extreme rigour of Puritanism. " Family prayers morning and evening; the reading of the Bible steadily through on both occasions, chapter by chapter; the learning of many verses by heart every day; the singing of hymns at frequent intervals to the drone of a harmonium; attending and even teaching in Sunday Schools; two or even three long services in church or chapel every Sunday, with prodigious sermons denouncing sin and threatening sinners with eternal damnation; belief in the literal and historical truth of every word in the Bible, and so deep a reverence for the Book that if one were knocked off a table there ensued a hush as though the heavens fell; solemn conversation on Sunday in which no profane subject might be mentioned ": such are some of Mr. Nevinson's memories of his early life in a city that has long been-and, relatively speaking, still is-a stronghold of organized religion in general, and of Nonconformity in particular.

I was born too late to experience the whole weight of the Puritan tradition. But I was born early enough to feel a part of it. Neither I nor my two sisters were, for some inexplicable reason, sent to Sunday School; nor, until we were older, were we expected to attend Sunday evening service. But there was no escape from "divine worship" in the morning. When breakfast, shadowed by the approaching ordeal, was over, family prayers were read; and then began the horrible business of being "got ready " for chapel. Oh, the face and ear scrubbing; the teeth and hair and clothes brushing; and the awful suspense lest these rites should not be performed in time! Unpunctuality was for my father the unforgivable sin, and to be late for service was among the few things which kindled his wrath. At length we were all immaculately arrayed in the garb then deemed most suitable, if not for worshipping the Lord of Light, for propitiating a frowning Jehovah. My father wore frock coat and silk hat. cannot recall my mother's and sisters' dress. Such things had no interest for me, though I would now give much for a picture of them as they appeared then-models, doubtless, of the trimmest propriety. As for myself, I suffered the yoke of the snowiest and starchiest of collars; my hands were not only uncomfortably clean, but positively gloved; while upon my head I carried the martyr's crown of a "mortar-board."

The tall, basemented house into which we had recently moved stood in a neighbourhood that is now an artisan area, riddled with tramways. Thirty years ago the district was a genteel inner suburb, connected with the town, a distance of one mile, by an occasional service of horsed 'buses. Those 'buses, painted yellow and white, were the first object to which my heart was given in spontaneous and sincere adoration. I might sing in chapel: "The God of Abraham praise." But my thoughts would be with the yellow and white 'buses; with the horses, all of which I knew by name, and with their drivers, who, from their lofty seats, would sometimes acknowledge my worship with a flourish of their whips as they drove past me on my way to and from school on week-days. Those becaped and berugged charioteers, with their faces blotched by the weather, were deities whom I could understand-deities "manifest, beholden"; and the burden of all my secret prayers was that I myself might, in the fullness of manhood, be elevated to their profession.

If the 'buses held my thoughts more than ever on Sunday, it was because we did not ride in them on that day, and because we hardly even saw them. The 'buses followed the main roads, turning a corner at right angles out of our street just before they reached our house; while we, in our walk to chapel, took "the back way," as being slightly nearer for pedestrians. "The back way" led us down our own hilly street, with its houses gradually shrinking in size and respectability, until we came to the tubular iron bridge across the railway. Nothing could be seen from this ridiculously enclosed structure, and rarely on Sundays was there even the sound or smell or smoke of a passing train to cheer one. Only a few yards away, up a public footpath that ran alongside the line, the whole busy junction, with its engine-sheds, was visible through iron railings. I spent hours there on week-days, watching shunting operations. But to attempt even a momentary escape from my family on the Sabbath was unthinkable. Beyond the railway bridge we entered a region of goodsyards, warehouses, and factories-fascinating on other days, but now uncannily quiet; and, finally, having traversed some slums, which presented such appalling ex-

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hibitions of profanity as children playing with marbles or adults buying Sunday newspapers, we reached and crossed the main thoroughfare of the city.

The Methodist Chapel stood just off the main street, in the Municipal Square. There were new chapels in the suburbs, including one within three minutes' walk of our own house; but it was still fashionable for good "family" Methodists to attend the "mother" or "down-town" establishment. Our chapel was one of those square, solid tabernacles that rose in the wake of the Wesleyan Revival. Outside, it looked like a prison; inside, with its pillars supporting the galleries and its stone memorial scrolls upon the walls, it resembled a mausoleum. There was a hymn then in vogue that expressed the desire of worshippers to stand "as pillars" of the temple and "go out no more." I supposed I ought to want to become one of the pillars of our chapel, " sicklied o'er " with pale green distemper; but I inwardly shrank from the prospect, and marvelled at the zest with which the congregation as a whole seemed to embrace it. The organ, with its heavily ornamented pipes, was, for me, the one bright feature of the building. It was fun to watch the organist playing his game, as he sat on his high throne beyond the choir in the gallery facing us; and I never failed to mimic his performances upon the piano, with its two candle-brackets for the stops, when I reached home. There was, again, the diversion of seeing the organist's assistant swing round on its pivot at the close of each hymn the board announcing the number of the next. How I envied him this occupation! Moreover, a surreptitious game of trains, played by pushing a number of Bibles along the book-rest, could sometimes be enjoyed; and I once even found an adult abettor of this enterprise. She was a "stranger"-such was the somewhat resentful term applied to chance worshippers in those days, when church-filling offered no problem-who drifted into our "seat" one Sunday. She not merely smiled upon me as she watched me making up the Manchester express with a number of hymn-books, but even pushed along a few additional coaches in my direction. This was more than my father, who had already prodded and otherwise rebuked me several times, could stand. Seizing me in his arms, and forgetting my hat, he carried me out of chapel, and for some minutes afterwards the congregation could hear, growing dimmer and dimmer in the distance, the harrowing cry: "Take me back to mother, I will be good." That incident, though I remember it well, must belong to my earliest chapel-going days. In any case, I was too young to realize that great minds think alike, and that, as I was tugged hatless along the street, I was echoing the sublime sentiment of no less a person than Queen Victoria.

My furtive games of trains continued, but never again under any approving eye. I looked for the stranger Sunday after Sunday, but she did not reappear. I hold her gratefully in memory, where I place her beside the mysterious gentleman who, as I stood gazing one day-a small boy without immediate funds-into a sweet-shop window, placed threepence in my hand, and fled before I could regain breath to thank him. The invasion of our pew by that fair sympathizer shines out in recollection as a high light against the prevailing background of monotony and depression-a depression increased by the semi-Calvinistic preaching and hymns then still common. The services, punctuated at apparently hourly intervals by the melancholy quarter-hour chimes of the neighbouring Town Hall clock, seemed interminable; and, while the body was tortured by confinement and discomfort, my young mind writhed under the thought of an implacable and " jealous" God, whose eagle eye was ever on the watch for my sins.

Over my bed in those days there hung a portrait of "John Wesley, A.M."—somewhat forbidding in itself, as the sterner portraits of Wesley certainly are. Is it surprising that I associated that portrait with the tedium of chapel, and that I came to regard Wesley as the human prototype of a relentless Judge? It was not until years later that, having discovered his "Journal," I found that Wesley was no mere "fire and thunder "evangelist, but a scholar, a gentleman, a philosopher, a poet, a social reformer, a humourist, and the most comprehensive and acute observer of his age. I realized then that one could not judge Wesley by the Wesleyans—any more than, to carry the idea a stage further, one could judge Christ by most Christians.

GILBERT THOMAS.

GOLD GRAPE-BLACK GRAPE

GOLD head by black head
Laid close on the pillow,
Ripe yellow muscat grapes
Warm from low sunlit slopes
Mingled with the dark shy clusters
Of cool black grapes
From the shy dark mountain side.

Gold sun-scented clusters, Black violet-bloomed clusters, Exquisite fruition Of the mysterious vine Rooted in the dark red flesh of men, In the aching ardent bodies of men-What wine, what wine shall be poured from you When you are crushed (For you must be crushed, The exquisite grape clusters Golden and black must be crushed, Give up their perfume and their strength) When you are crushed in the hot wine-press? For the ripe grape With its exquisite mysterious wine, Its taste of perfumed life, Dreads not the hot encompassing press, But yearns to be pressed into smooth wine To stir the dark red flesh of men Where the vine roots That bears the grape clusters, Black clusters and gold clusters.

And the dark clusters
Droop tenderly over the gold grapes,
And tender leaves of the vine
And faint delicate tendrils
Drift together in a soft murmuring wind,
Rippling over them,
Blowing them together and apart.

Crush black grape and gold,
For our lips parch for the wine,
The wine of fulfilment,
The wine of reconciling,
The wine of peace.
For to drink that ardent mysterious wine
(Ardent and mysterious as the bodies of men)
Is a thing ultimate and positive,
A release of the body and the spirit.
If you attain that fulfilment,
Achieve that reconciling,
Then you achieve an ultimate peace,
Dionysiac peace,
Among the gold and black grape clusters
So mysteriously reborn
With all their fine bloom and potency
After they are crush-d in the hot wine-press.

White fingers of Mænads In the frenzy of the God Tear apart, Rend morsel from morsel The dark red flesh of men, The phallus-bearers, The indispensable servitors Of the god's sacrifice, Impetuously and in frenzy Tear out quivering life.

But the crushed grapes bloom again, And the torn body lives again In fulfilment And reconciling And peace.

This is the mystic sacrifice
Of the Dionysiac tearing of the flesh
And crushing of the grape clusters.
The old gods are the most living,
The primitive mysteries the most purifying,
The most ancient symbols the truest.

Black grape and gold grape And dark flesh rent.

RICHARD ALDINGTON.

PLAYS AND PICTURES

"Savonarola Brown," at the Haymarket.

N the afternoon of February 25th a mixed grill entertainment was provided to well-wishers of the Oxford Preservation Fund by members past and present of the university. The entertainment was more noticeable for variety than for excellence. A short sketch by Mr. Compton Mackenzie, for instance, plumbed the depths of banality. The most important item in the programme was Mr. Max Beerbohm's brilliantly clever skit "Savonarola by Ladbroke Brown" (which was published in "Seven Men"). It may be doubted whether its appeal is not purely literary and doomed to be dimmed in acting. It certainly did not "come through" on this occasion, partly because, no doubt owing to under-rehearsal, no consistent technique was observed by the actors, who all "guyed" different schools of Shakespearean acting at their own sweet will, without any reference to each other. The porter played by Mr. Richard Goolden seemed to me to catch very successfully the most modern way of massacring blank verse. The play was presented by Sir Nigel Playfair. The entertainment was ushered in by a long verse prologue, recited by Miss Lilian Braithwaite, and written by Mr. John Buchan.

"Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise," New Theatre.

Shirley Madison is in love with her cousin Carl Woodall. Carl is in love with Phillipa, his Uncle Richard's young wife, who returns his affection. And Richard wants a child, but has failed to produce one. It takes the authors of this play, Miss Eleanor Chilton and Mr. Herbert Agar, an act and a half to propound that situation, and then, having propounded it, they promptly run away from it. Phillipa discovers that she cares more for money and comfort than for Carl, and that she does not believe him capable of seeing a divorce through. So she proceeds to give all four parties their real desires (Carl's being a farm more than a wife, and his uncle being rich and benevolent) by retiring with Carl to his flat with the idea of presenting Richard with a child which he will imagine to be his own, and afterwards making him marry Shirley. The plan succeeds, Shirley gets Carl, Carl gets his farm, Phillipa keeps her comfort, and Richard gets his child. And that is all. To make so straightforward a story spin out for two hours it is necessary to invest the characters with life and interest and attractiveness, and it would have helped if some unforeseen twist could have been given

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to the plot; but no. We are given plenty of trivial embroidery, vast tracts of circumlocution, several more "plans," and much shilly-shallying on the part of Carl, but nothing in which we can take an interest, nothing unexpected, nothing dramatic. Given that there was to be no depth in the play, the situation might have been saved by witty or cynical writing, but the authors never get beyond being "smart." Their method, both in dialogue and construction, is flat, and their play is correspondingly dull. Mr. Dean's production seemed to me to do little to alleviate this, but the actors, especially Miss Helen Spencer, Mr. George Curzon, and Mr. Deering Wells, did Miss Mary Newcomb seemed unhappy as Phillipa, probably because the part is too shallow for her keenly intelligent art.

"Lone Star Ranger," Capitol Theatre.

"Lone Star Ranger," adapted from the novel by Zane Grey, is an example of what a "Wild West" film should be. The story has few pretensions to psychology, few to probability, and uses many of the old stock situations, but so well is the film constructed and photographed that it is never dull; one excitement rapidly succeeds another, and the sentimental is kept well in the background. Miss Sue Carol is a vivacious young lady from New York who has come to stay with her uncle in the West in search of variety and excitement-of which, indeed, she gets a good dose. The mail coach is attacked by bandits, and she is rescued by Mr. George O'Brien, who is as attractive and dashing an outlaw and as superb a rider as anyone could wish. Next it turns out that her uncle, the local magistrate, is in league with a highly unscrupulous band of cattle-rustlers. There follow endless complications, which are unravelled and exposed by the heroic outlaw, with whom, of course, the young lady has now fallen in love. He is granted a free pardon, and they are united as he lies wounded after having frustrated a bank raid. The film neither gains nor loses by being a "talkie"; at all events, the producer has not allowed the "dialogue sequences" to interrupt or hold up the action. One of its best points is the really remarkable photography of horses and of the very strange and fascinating scenery of Texas.

Liberal Players, Century Theatre, Notting Hill Gate.

"Liberal Players," who presented "The Romantic Young Lady," by Martinez Sierra, at the Century Theatre on February 28th and March 1st, have been formed to "encourage and assist dramatic activity in Liberal Associations," and besides producing plays in Central London their intention is to continue performances by invitation in various constituencies on the lines of their recent produc-tions of C. K. Munro's "At Mrs. Beam's," which were enthusiastically received at Abingdon and Hampstead Garden Suburb. "The Romantic Young Lady" was well done, several members of the cast giving promisingly dis-tinguished performances; notably Miss Gwendolyn Roberts as Rosario, whose wish-fulfilments begin to be realized with the arrival of the famous novelist's hat through the window. It is a sensitive and entertaining play, and one well adapted to the actors, who were all adequate and unamateurish. "The Visitor," by Vera I. Arlett, acted as a curtain-raiser, signifying the inclusion in the Players' repertoire of one-act plays suitable for Political Concert Meetings. the performance on February 28th, Mr. Ramsay Muir, Chairman of the Liberal Organization Committee, gave an address on the work of Liberal Players, and their usefulness to the constituencies.

English "Conversation Pieces," 25, Park Lane.

Sir Philip Sassoon has lent his house at 25, Park Lane for an extremely interesting and novel exhibition of eighteenth-century English "Conversation Pieces," which has opened there this week in aid of the Royal Northern Hospital. Imported originally from the Dutch, the "Conversation Piece" reached a very high point both of social and artistic eminence in England during the eighteenth century. It is more than a mere portrait group, in that

the figures stand in some sort of psychological or dramatic relation to each other, are, in fact, engaged in some sort of occupation, even if this is no more than taking tea in the garden, as in Zoffany's charming picture of Mr. and Mrs. Garrick. There are a large number of very important examples in this exhibition, in which Gainsborough, Zoffany, Stubbs, Devis, Hayman, Highmore, Hogarth, Morland, and a number of less known painters are represented. Zoffany's "Family Party—the Minuet," his "John, fourteenth Lord Willoughby de Broke," and other examples of his work here have great artistic merit, as well as being valuable records of social history. "Lord and Lady Melbourne" and "Colonel Pocklington and Family" are excellent specimens of the work of that very charming and generally under-rated painter, George Stubbs. Gainsborough's "The Minuet" is an exquisite piece of There are several other groups by him, including one of himself with his wife and child, some important Hogarths, including sketches for larger pictures, and some characteristic examples of the work of that strange baroque painter Marcellus Laroon. The exhibition will be open till March 30th, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., including Sundays.

Foyle's Art Gallery.

The second exhibition at the new gallery recently opened by Messrs. Foyle at Manette Street, Charing Cross Road, consists of work by "Contemporary British Artists"; there remain in it also a certain number of paintings by Mr. Frank E. Beresford, with an exhibition of whose work the gallery first opened. The principle upon which Messrs. Foyle conduct this gallery is that any artist may exhibit there on payment of a small hanging fee. The result, in this essentially "popular" exhibition, is a lack not only of unity of aim but of any standard of

Things to see and hear in the coming week:-Saturday, March 8th .-

Lamond, Recital, Wigmore Hall, 3.

Sunday, March 9th .-

Mr. C. Delisle Burns, on "Man in the Modern City," Conway Hall, 11. Pouishnoff, at the Palladium, 3.15.

Monday, March 10th.—
Molière's "Le Malade Imaginaire," adapted by F.

Anstey, Festival Theatre, Cambridge.
"Appearances," by Mr. Garland Anderson, at the Royalty.

London Symphony Orchestra, Queen's Hall, 8.15. Sir Josiah Stamp, on "Points of View," the Wireless, 9.25.

Miss Rose Quong's Recital of Poetry, Drama, and Dance, Rudolf Steiner Hall.

Tuesday, March 11th.—
Mrs. Naomi Mitchison, Reading, at 15, Chelsea. Court, 4.

Dr. Stella Churchill, on "The Professional Woman and the Future," Caxton Hall, 8.

Mr. Oscar Asche's Revue, at the Duchess Theatre,

Wednesday, March 12th .-

"Enchantment," by Mr. J. Jefferson Farjeon, at the Vaudeville.

Mr. P. J. Noel Baker, M.P., on "Politics," the Wireless, 7.25.

Thursday, March 13th .-

Royal Philharmonic Society's Concert, Queen's Hall, 8. day, March 14th .-

B.B.C. Symphony Concert, Queen's Hall, 8. Mr. F. W. Pethick-Lawrence, M.P., on "Parliamen-

Mr. F. W. Fetnick-Lawrence, M.I., on Farnamentary Procedure," Morley College, 8.

Mr. Geo. H. Widdows, Lantern Lecture on "Open-Air Schools for All," Livingstone Hall, Westminster, 7.30.

Mr. Desmond MacCarthy, on "Problems of Dialect," the Wireless, 7.25.

Mr. Constant Lambert, on "Music," London Day Training College, Southampton Row, 7.30.

OMICRON.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

COLERIDGE, OR SIXTY YEARS IN A BALLOON

AM not sure that Mr. Fausset, whose series of critical biographies is altogether a distinguished and courageous performance, is not to be partly blamed for the air of disesteem which at present chills the afterfame of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Mr. Fausset wrote on that old gentleman with an industrious, curious antipathy, such as, years ago, the usually genial Tommy Ashe scattered through his editions of Coleridge's works. Mr. Birrell (as the reissue of "More Obiter Dicta" in "The Travellers' Library" reminds us) questioned the appropriateness (to say the least of it) of Mr. Ashe's hostility. I am not called upon to renew the consideration of Mr. Fausset's book on Coleridge; I merely mention it as a possible source of some contemporary prejudice against a being not wholly admirable, but inimitable—"an archangel a little battered."

Johnson remarks of a man of letters very similar to Coleridge in the plethora of his projects and imaginings that "he did something, however little." From too many judges of Coleridge one receives the impression that, since we must be charitable, he did something, however little. Such a version of his life has always roused me. Suppose that the voluminous Coleridge-or call him any name you will-had spent his sixty years on earth doing nothing but, from time to time, write a poem with salvation in it. What then? If the creation of a series of splendid poems is not work enough for one man, if the storing up and controlled release of those energies is not a sign of grace, this is indeed a hard world. But the indolence of a man of genius is more progressive than the superior labourings of the moralist. Coleridge, again, is written down as a man of fluctuations of principle, one who squared his own conscience as required by suitable theorizings, or, more simply, a pious fraud. There is certainly in him a vein of selfpity, and a desire to be respectable. It is at least as commendable as the desire to be disrespectable. For the more subtle faults of his thought, I doubt whether his character is to blame. He honoured his Bible, and he honoured the scientific minds of his age. His "philosophical cosmogony" was a fantastically learned failure as a whole, because he could not throw his Bible aside. Jesus is God, he felt, and from far back came the question, What God? could be no answer, but he fought it out. The Tri-Unity was there somewhere in timeless "Stasis." "Apostasis" ("mythically the Fall of the Angels") brought forth Chaos. To polarize Chaos and inaugurate Time and Nature, the Tri-Unity had to condescend to a Scheme of Redemption; Man—and "to our first Parents." Most innocent Coleridge!

But we may suspect the insecurity of his immense design without neglecting the unique activity of the poetic thinker so long engaged upon it. In her "Coleridge on Logic and Learning " (Milford, 13s. 6d.), Professor Alice Snyder has undertaken what has been waiting for her courageous and accomplished hand-the careful disposition of the best philosophical papers left by Coleridge. "Probably few of the world's thinkers have left to posterity such masses of unpublished and, relatively speaking, unpublishable philosophical material as has Samuel Taylor Coleridge. In addition to the volumes of philosophical and theological remains that have been printed, there exist in almost unbelievable quantities manuscript notes for proposed works of vast scope, dictated sections of such works, marginalia." This accumulation cannot be said to denote a surrender to opium or femininity (the main charges against S. T. C.), and, whatever the weaknesses and obstacles in it are, it would be expected to cast sometimes other than a dim religious light on the mystery of man. As a whole, it is difficult, like most of Coleridge's metaphysical prosewriting, and the restlessness of Coleridge's mind gives the ordinary mind too many things to hold in endless parenthesis and side-issue. There is nothing pompous in his intellectual display; Coleridge was too much of a hermit for that; but he simply will not select. He is possessed of all the devils at once. He cannot write "S. T. C." without reflections. He will explain:—

"It may be well to place on record the Synopsis of the Coleridgian (Mem. more euphonious it will be to name it the Estésean, or Esstecéan) Methodology, or Philosophy of Epochs and Methods, by S.T.C., R.A. R.S.L. &c. &c.

R.A., R.S.L., &c., &c.,
Author of Tomes, whereof, the not in Dutch,
The Public little knows, the Publisher too much."

He has the inconvenient faculty of being absolutely right and demonstrably wrong at a blow. Consider the frontispiece to Professor Synder's book. It is a facsimile of the title-page of "The Encyclopædia Metropolitana, or, System of Universal Knowledge; on a Methodical Plan, projected by Samuel Taylor Coleridge." Quotations from Plato and Bacon usher in this grand invention. What is to be set before us? We turn to the text, and find the secret: Coleridge writes to Southey, for instance, " By the bye, what a strange abuse has been made of the word encyclopædia. It signifies properly, grammar, logic, rhetoric, and ethics, and metaphysics, which last, explaining the ultimate knowledge of grammar-log.-rhet., and eth.-formed a circle of knowledge. . . . To call a huge unconnected miscellany of the omne scibile, in an arrangement determined by the accident of initial letters, an encyclopædia is the impudent ignorance of your Presby-terian bookmakers." Out of curiosity, I have looked up Southey's answer. He admires Coleridge's plan-" if you were to execute and would execute it, it would be, beyond all doubt, the most valuable work of any age or any country." But, he confesses, he likes a plan less circular. He intends "a book of reference. . . . This has elsewhere been done in the dictionary form; whatever we get better than that form—ponemus lucro." It chances that this is a Southeian, not a Coleridgean, world at present. We like our Encyclopædia to yield its information at once, and it is arranged so that it does so. It is very, very wrong, except—that life is short. Coleridge may triumph yet. The youth of the future may rise to his method, his "grand panoramic dream." Instead of snatching the volume containing the article "Taxation" from the shelf, he will have a "harmonious body of knowledge" by him in which Taxation and Arcady flourish side by side, mutually shedding radiance. And, even as things are shaped, it is vital that a Coleridge should have been among us.

You cannot look into his works without meeting some germ of fresh consideration. You may droop under the "mono-polly-logue" of his main philosophy, but out of it comes the vivid challenge of his "Logoi"—" What a magnificent History of acts of individual minds, sanctioned by the collective Mind of the Country a Language is," or this illustration of the intuitive imagination,-"I have twice seen the ascent of Ephemeræ in a strong moon-light, the beams passing through an opening in a branching tree that overhung the water on which the moon-light formed a small island in deepest shade, and here by intensely watching the phenomenon I satisfied myself, that the different spiral figures were each produced by the image motion, which the single insect left on the eye; each of which overtook the preceding before the impression had ceased, on the same principle as boys produce the circle of light by a piece of kindled charcoal whirled rapidly round.'

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REVIEWS

TRIO

Three of Them. By Norman Douglas. (Chatto & Windus. 6s.)
The Gentleman in the Parlour. By W. Somerset Maugham.
(Heinemann. 8s. 6d.)

Return to Scotland: An Egoist's Journey. By Moray McLaren. (Duckworth. 8s. 6d.)

MR. Norman Douglas is both the delight and despair of a reviewer. The delight, on account of his refreshing independence of particular literary markets, and the cheerful implication that he doesn't care two straws for one's opinion. The despair—but that is to plunge at once behind the reasons for delight. He is many-sided, yet, unlike the clergyman-astronomer or the economist who writes detective tales, these many aspects have to be considered at once. For a final estimate of Mr. Douglas as a writer one would have to weigh up a biologist, a satirist, an antiquarian; a traveller, a Greek scholar and a poet; an intellectual, a hedonist, a rational believer and a passionate sceptic—but the list becomes too long. And, anyway, why talk of final estimates in so cramped a space?

The blame is with Mr. Douglas's new volume. It is quite short—three good bites and it is gone. But the samples are provocatively diverse. First, a ramble, actual and meditative, in Athens, with a luxurious dive into the Greek Anthology. Next, Mr. Douglas's earliest short story—ironic but ardent, set in Capri and Pompeii. And, lastly, a carefully docketed account, based on personal observation, of the reptilia and amphibia to be found in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The dates of these three pieces are respectively 1929, 1901 and 1891. By assembling them the author seems almost to be saying: Treat this volume as a jumping-off point. It provides, in a minor way, a good occasion for discussing me.

But this is where despair appears. There is not a great deal in the volume, but there is too much arising from it to discuss. For herpetology, no less than Greece and fiction, must be admitted into the main scheme, when the practical study of batrachians can produce such truths as this: "Having attained maturity, the race, like the individual, has become more specialized in its mental and physical constitution. But this comparative rigidity, acquired at no small expense, constitutes in itself the primary cause of incipient decay." Suddenly it strikes one that the purely literary man has not enough windows on to life, however sane and broad-viewed he may be. In a sense the deficiency is his salvation; since the more he sees the more he has to reconcile, if those extra windows are not to gape as holes in his philosophy. The professional writer, secure in his own literary view of life, produces an illusion of completeness, shapeliness, exhaustiveness. He appears to have given the reader all that, for the moment, he has got.

Take, as a good example, Mr. Maugham, who is manysided, but each side is literary. Mr. Maugham's book, despite its sedentary title (from the pen of Hazlitt) records a sufficiently adventurous journey through the forests of the Shan States and Indo-China. Reflections-those tangential, curious, individual reflections of the writer, for which a travel book is partly an excuse-play as large a part as incident and description. They touch warmly and caressingly on a hundred subjects, and among them on the author's lack of science. "I should be proud to read in a footnote of a learned work on the botany or ornithology of Upper Burma, Maugham, however, states that he observed Jonesia in the Southern Shan States, . . A yellow primrose to me, alas! is not primula Vulgaris, but just . Oh, that "just," and the literary, the poetic metaphors that follow it! It is a passage of delicious writer's fancy. Maugham has given himself away, and meant to do so. The very word vulgaris is deliberate. "A fig for the botanist and his microscope!" is the reaction he is out for, and achieves. Mr. Maugham is the perfect literary traveller. He hates facts, but out of his own complex, mellow artistry he fashions a narrative in which incidents and character sketches are like polished gems on a chain of individual workmanship. It leaves one satisfied, with that sense of possession induced in the reader by a well-wrought work.

But Mr. Douglas's three items, taken together, are more "I was -or less-than satisfying; they are troubling. interested to notice, in 1888, an almost uniform greyishwhite variety of L. muralis on the light-colored rocks near Amalfi." No, the author of "They Went" is not spoofing. L. muralis is an honest lizard, no matter what dream flower F. Jonesia be. Perhaps Mr. Douglas is already in the footnotes of a German work. He may be anywhere. It is extremely difficult to possess him, because of the breadth and compass of his stretch. For where the entire synthesis is lacking, his imaginative pieces seem to have strange rents through which the distant and far-reaching blow in gusts, and something of permanence invades the moment. If man is satirized, it is passionately, from Olympus, not because fashion dictates a grimace. There is even a hint of it in "Nerinda," his first essay in fiction, wherein a man, toppling to insanity, is obsessed by love for the plaster cast of a dead woman in Pompeii. Finally, here in Athens is a fragment one might term characteristic, but it is carved specifically to match up the Greek poets: "Because she once dreamt of a shipwreck, our prudent Abbess has ever since declined to enter a bath . . . " There is no labelling Mr. Douglas.

Mr. McLaren has provided his own label in his subtitle, and so drawn the sting. Let us get over these old prejudices. Why should a young man with definite opinions not write unblushingly about himself instead of vitiating his ardour into fiction or hammering out a thesis on dead lions? Better a live cub. . . . Mr. McLaren was brought up in Scotland and returned there at the age of twenty-five to tramp through the Highlands and visit the Hebrides. His account is written in a leisured style that is remarkably distinctive, personal and rich. Occasionally, there is a hint of the Johnsonian. And he is a sentimental traveller too. Who can read, "They manage this sort of thing so much better in the South," without remembering, "They order this matter better in France"? But Mr. McLaren has confidence, individuality and an attractive independent tang of genuineness. He is so much the literary egoist that, without Mr. Maugham's bright exotic background, he can make that easiest and nearest of all subjects entertaining, and its Scottish frame a pleasure.

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The main outline, no doubt, is fairly simple. After the death of our Lord upon the Cross—which occurred at about three o'clock in the afternoon of Good Friday—His body, by Pilate's orders, was delivered to Joseph of Arimathea, who laid it in a new tomb hewn out of the rock, and "rolled a great stone against the door of the sepulchre and departed." Next day the chief priests—fearing that the disciples might steal the body and then assert that He was risen from the

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dead-obtained Pilate's permission to make the sepulchre "sure," and set two men from the Temple Guard to keep watch over it. So the tomb remained through the Sabbath. Next morning, however, a little before dawn, several or Christ's devoted women, including St. Mary Magdalen and Mary the Mother of James, set out towards the tomb with spices and ointments intending to anoint the body. On the way they wondered anxiously how they would get the great stone moved away. But their anxiety was unfounded. For just as they arrived there was an earthquake, and the Angel of the Lord, whose countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow, "came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it " (Matt. xxviii. 2)-a passage which seems to give the correct answer to the question that forms the title of Mr. Morison's book. At this apparition the guards swooned; but the women, though alarmed, remained conscious, and the Angel, after giving them the news of Christ's resurrection, commanded them to go at once and tell the disciples; which they ran off in fear and great joy to do; but on their way they were met by Christ Himself, who stopped them and spoke to them; and "they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him " (Matt., xxviii., 9). At first when the disciples heard the women's story they refused to believe it, but later in the day, two of them-St. Peter, and another-were walking towards Emmaus, when the risen Lord overtook them, and entered into conversation with them. Believing him to be a stranger, they told him the story of His own trial and death and of the vision seen by the women that morning, and he explained to them the meaning of it all, and went into the house, and sat at meat with them; till suddenly "they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight" (Luke xxiv., 31).

Once more, however, later in the evening, as the two disciples told "the eleven"—though St. Thomas, as we know, was not amongst them—of their surprising experience on the way to Emmaus, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and when they were terrified—believing him to be a spirit—he showed them his hands and his feet, pointing, no doubt, to the wounds made by the nails, as He did also a week later when St. Thomas was present. "Handle me," He said, "and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." And having asked for food they gave him a piece of broiled fish and an honeycomb. "And he took it and did eat before them" (Luke xxiv., 36-43). So ended that first eventful day.

It might perhaps be supposed from the Gospel account that the Ascension took place quite soon after this, but in fact, so the writer of the Acts tells us, He remained on earth for some forty days and was seen many times by His disciples, though only a few appearances are recorded. There was the appearance to St. Thomas when He made him thrust his hand into His side, and another, recorded by St. Paul, when He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once, and a third recorded by St. John at the sea of Tiberias, when the disciples at first failed to recognize Him, but afterwards knew Him through the miraculous draught of fishes, and He bade them come and dine. Finally there was that last farewell scene, when He led them out to Bethany and blessed them, and as He blessed them was parted from them and carried up into Heaven.

parted from them and carried up into Heaven. What a familiar story it is! We have known it from our childhood; but it will be obvious to anyone who considers it critically that it contains grave difficulties. cannot, however, be said that Mr. Morison, in this new explanation of the matter-earnest and ingenious as his writing is-does much to help us. The best of the book, indeed, is comprised in Chapters II.-V., occupying rather less than a third of the whole, in which the author gives us a very learned and admirable account of the trial and crucifixion. But as the work proceeds, it becomes vague and unconvincing, and towards the end, in spite of the forcibleness of the style, we begin to wonder whether the author himself has formed any clear idea as to what really happened during the forty days of which he writes. fact is, of course, that the doctrine of the Resurrection, in the physical sense, is entirely beyond our comprehension, and must always remain, for those who accept it, a matter not of evidence but of faith.

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Professor Dibelius's book is extremely interesting. It is a perfect example of German thoroughness and intelligence. Merely as an account of the governmental and social and industrial system of this country at the present time it could hardly be equalled. The quantity and accuracy of his knowledge are almost alarming, and it seems a miracle that a foreigner should know so much and misunderstand so little. Indeed, it is quite a relief when one finds that Professor Dibelius does occasionally make mistakes. For instance, he misunderstands the change in the social and economic position of the writer of books which took place during the lifetime of Johnson and Goldsmith. Only national prejudice can account for his absurd misstatement that the average Englishman considered Russia to be a "free" country after 1905, and Germany and Austria reactionary. Like so many other people, he believes that the New Statesman is still the organ of the Fabians, "the Webbs," and Mr. Shaw. It is not true that the University franchise is restricted to M.A.s.

When one comes to Professor Dibelius's interpretation of the facts so admirably presented by him, it is necessary to avoid the indiscriminate enthusiasm which some reviewers have already showered on the book. The Professor is not without his own national bias, naturally exacerbated by the war, and it often leads him into exaggeration and misinterpretation. He also suffers from the inevitable difficulty which confronts every producer of one of these "studies of national character." The generalizations which he is sooner or later bound to make are so sweeping that they are always only approximately true, while so many exceptions and qualifications have to be omitted that they are, unless taken merely as approximations, actually false. Let me give an example. His chapter on the Press is ex-tremely well informed. When, however, he holds that the most potent influence in the formation of English public opinion is the Press, he seems to me to allow himself to be convinced, if not deceived, by very superficial truths. His picture of the tremendous power wielded by Lord Northcliffe and the Northcliffe Press is, no doubt, superficially accurate, and it is the picture which presented itself to Northcliffe himself and has been taken over from him by Lord Rothermere, Lord Beaverbrook, and other large-scale newspaper manufacturers. But if one looks below the surface and considers the facts themselves, if one has been in touch with people of different classes and occupations in England during the last ten years, then one becomes much more doubtful of the truth of this lurid picture of the intellectual dictatorship of the newspaper proprietor. The period of the war is not a fair test, for then everything, including people's minds, was abnormal. The Press can, I admit, at moments and for a short time by a stunt stampede opinion in a particular direction. But the picture of the British public as a vast collection of ignoramuses who swallow everything ladled out to them by the MAIL, EXPRESS, EVENING News, Evening Standard, and their facsimiles sold on Sundays and in the "provinces," is grotesque. If it is true, how can one explain the growth of the Labour Party and the fact that in the vast proportion of General Elections The Works of

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New Statesman: "This able and provocative book, a contribution to the study of religious psychology, which may be disliked or repudiated, but cannot be ignored. . . The longer part of this important work deals with the prevalence of possession in antiquity, the middle ages, and modern times."

ANIMISM, MAGIC, AND THE DIVINE KING

This important and original study of animism, the primitive mind, the organization of primitive society, is written with sympathy for the psycho-analytic view-point and draws its data from a very wide field. Long sections on the Scapegoat and on the Medicine Man are included.

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work again

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the majority votes against the policy and party supported by the Northcliffes, Rothermeres, and Beaverbrooks? The explanation, I suggest, is that people are not quite so stupid or uneducated as Lord Beaverbrook and Professor Dibelius

think they are.

Professor Dibelius's judgment of us is on the surface extremely-the careless reader may even think it undulyfavourable. In fact, if you read his book carefully, you see that it is a pretty severe criticism of Britain and the British character and social and political system. It is none the worse for being that, and Professor Dibelius is never wilfully unfair. His method is to give with one hand and then skilfully take back as much, or sometimes more, with the other. If I were a typical Englishman, I should not like to feel I really was what the Professor says is the typical Englishman. Practically every war, we are told, from 1700 to 1918 ended with a victory for Britain, "which in most cases was not the Power which had done most of the fighting," and it is implied that the Englishman has always known, from the time of Sir Thomas More, how to get his fighting done for him. English liberty, according to the Professor, is merely "the limitation of the power of the State as against the individual." It is a narrow conception of liberty, and the Englishman simply ignores what the Continent understands by liberty. Also he never gives it to anyone who does not resist him and fight for it. His ideal is "the gentleman" who must have the utmost freedom for himself and is prepared to give it to everybody so long as he can be included within the orbit of gentlemanliness

There is, of course, a good deal of truth in these generalizations, and they are set out with great cleverness. Yet they suffer from over-simplification, and in the end are half-truths.

LEONARD WOOLF.

THE ODYSSEY OF A MAP-MAKER

Tariff Walls, A European Grusade. By Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, Bart., M.P. (Murray. 7s. 6d.)

SIR CLIVE MORRISON-BELL deserves the thanks of all who wish to arouse the peoples of Europe to revolt against the policy that has strangled the Continent in a network of tariffs. Throughout the Continent scattered movements have arisen during the last six years advancing proposals, not always consistent with one another, for the reduction of inter-State tariffs. Of these the Pan-Europa of Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, and the Union Douanière in Paris look to a day when there will be no internal tariffs in Continental Europe except, perhaps, in Russia. Resolutions passed by the International Chamber of Commerce, and by the Congresses of the International Co-operative Alliance, as well as the famous "Bankers' Manifesto," bear witness to the concern felt about the prevailing state of things. More officially, the League of Nations Conference of Experts at Geneva, with its unanimous demand for lower tariff barriers, added its impulse to the rising demand. But none of these protests appeal to the masses as effectively as Sir Clive's famous tariff map. Actually seen by thousands-fifty thousand persons saw it in Geneva alone during the League of Nations Economic Conference-, copied into thousands of newspapers throughout the world, the map has carried its eloquent, though silent, mission everywhere. Here was a difficult problem treated in a way everyone could understand. The tariff map was an inspiration,

Sir Clive has now added to our debt to him by this account of the origin and adventures of his map. Except for the long tenth chapter, in which he explains the methods employed in arriving at the comparative levels of different tariffs, the book is as exciting to the general reader as a novel of adventure. This chapter is, no doubt, necessary to convince the expert that the map is as accurate as it is possible to make it. But it interrupts a fascinating narrative, and might perhaps be shortened with advantage in what we hope may really be many subsequent editions. There are indications in the book, notably in the protests from Spain and Hungary—the latter, however, being due to a misunderstanding—that the map tends to make peccant

statesmen uncomfortable. They would be glad to cast doubt on Sir Clive's figures, and it was necessary to prove his good faith. But his unique achievement consisted in making the hackneyed subject of tariffs fresh and interesting to the man in the street.

This book follows up the popular appeal of the map in a manner likely to be equally popular. Sir Clive writes well, and the account of his search to find a suitable craftsman to make the map, his plans to secure an effective display at the various Conferences he attended are dealt with lightly and with detached humour. Obviously he enjoyed his Odyssey over Europe, and his enjoyment infects the reader. Nor is the map itself unseen. A number of well-chosen photographs show it as seen in the Bank of England, as displayed before the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, as marked out in tape pegged down to Sir Clive's own tennis lawn, and in the Musée Nationale at Versailles, at the feet of the statue of Napoleon, who is supposed to utter as a voice from the dead, "What a muddle you moderns have made of my Europe!"

We hope Sir Clive's book will be translated into the languages of all the countries where his map has been seen.

The one is a fitting complement to the other.

NOVELS

The Mink Coat. By EDITH BRILL. (Humphrey Toulmin. 7s. 6d.)

The Seventh Gate. By MURIEL HARRIS. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

Insecurity. By Monica Ewer. (Gollancz. 7s. 6d.)

Special Providence. By Mary Agnes Hamilton. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

Pending Heaven. By WILLIAM GERHARDI. (Duckworth. 7s. 6d.)

Down in the Valley. By H. W. FREEMAN. (Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d.)

ALTHOUGH we have only one woman novelist of the first water now living, several women novelists not in that class are turning out very good work. A couple of weeks ago Mrs. Kazarine's "Five Sisters" appeared, and this week a first novel of almost equal merit follows it-" The Mink Coat," by Miss Brill. This will appeal to a less exclusive public than "Five Sisters"; it is a simpler and more normally human sort of story; the heroine is gentle and charming, and it ends happily. It is also a little commonplace, and rather too feminine in its outlook. But Miss Brill has mastered one of the most important-also one of the most obvious and most neglected-secrets of telling a story. She makes every detail, every sentence, practically every word, interesting and important from the point of view of the story. I read carefully the novels which I review, partly from a troublesome habit, partly from an even more troublesome sense of duty, and find habit and duty superseded by interest in the case of about one novel in thirty. With "The Mink Coat" interest banished all sense of duty, and even reflections upon commonplaceness and femininity had to be postponed until the end. The story, retold, is nothing very much. The Raynors are a Cockney, lower middle-class family. Mr. Raynor works for a furrier and is, relatively speaking, well off; the four children are intelligent and good-looking. The war gives Claude, the elder boy, a distaste for settled employment, so he sponges on his family and plays in a jazz quartet. But Marian and David, the twins, are Miss Brill's main concern. Marian adores David, and when she is defrauded of her chief wish by David's stupid marriage, she goes to live with Claude in a studio he has borrowed from an artist called Philip Carless. One day after a long absence Philip walks in and accepts the presence of the Raynors with the same tolerance which he extends towards everyone who does not question his right to be as egotistical as he wishes. Marian, having already experienced her father and two brothers, never questions it. Carless falls in love with her, but finds her affection for her family extremely annoying. When she decides to leave him for a time to look after David and his invalid wife, Philip goes back to the wife he left fifteen years before, and Marian thinks that it is all over. (I thought so too, and it distressed me, as I liked both Marian and Philip.) Miss Brill, however, brings them together again two years t

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THE

WEEK-END REVIEW

Edited by

GERALD BARRY

(late editor of the Saturday Review)

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MARTIN ARMSTRONG
IVOR BROWN
GERALD GOULD
L. P. HARTLEY
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DYNELEY HUSSEY

D. S. MacCOLL
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later; she has managed to get Philip divorced in the interval and even arranged that Marian shall get back her mink coat which she had sold for David's sake. When one has accepted-however reluctantly-the penultimate breach between Marian and Philip, the ultimate reconciliation becomes more surprising than satisfying. But apart from this and from a slight insistence upon Marian's growth and development, and on her learning to love unselfishly, Miss Brill's management of her story and her characters is

admirably natural and coherent.

"The Seventh Gate," which won the £1,000 prize from its publishers, is a more original and more witty novel, but it lacks the spontaneity of "The Mink Coat"; it gives the impression of something cleverly put together. I have no idea whether Miss Harris is a student and admirer of Mr. E. M. Forster's novels-it may be accidental-but there is a distinct and very pleasant flavour of him in "The Seventh Gate." Miss Harris's sense of humour is a second cousin to his, and her manner of treating human nature almost as nearly connected-poor relations, of course, but if Mr. Forster will not write any more novels himself we must be glad to know his poor relations. As to the plot, this is Trilby à la mode de 1930. Catherine Troon, a discontented, middle-aged music mistress, is carried away by an article upon the sublimation of sex by Dr. Risaleur, an anthropologist. She and Risaleur meet, she has a fall and slight concussion of the brain which leaves her looking surprisingly young and well. In fact, she drops twenty years and develops an exquisite singing voice. This new Catherine fascinates whom she will, and turns whom she fascinates into the rungs of the ladder of her musical career. climbs upon human personalities lightly and nonchalantly to the top. She is Dr. Risaleur's theory made flesh, the artist-robot of the future, and, like all theories made flesh, not exactly what he meant. But affections have not been discarded quite completely, for a sudden declaration of love from Risaleur causes a strain under which she swoons, and then a few hours later drops dead on the concert platform, an old woman. Anyone who can write a novel as generally intelligent as "The Seventh Gate," and throw in humour too, deserves £1,000-but, like many prize poems, prize essays, and prize beauties, "The Seventh Gate" is just a little dull.

There is a kind of feminine novel which is almost wholly the offspring of collegiate education. Two women, tremendously good friends in a tremendously sensible way, live together in horrible discomfort; but they do not notice the discomfort, drugged by the beauty of cape-gooseberries in earthenware jars, and the immortal truths embodied in classical quotations. There may be no cape-gooseberries in "Insecurity," but there are certainly quotations, and there are numerous bright epigrammatic conversations. It is a book about a young woman journalist, who incidentally writes a novel which is given half a column in THE NATION. And was that novel about a young woman journalist, who wrote a novel (also about a young woman journalist) which got half a column in THE NATION? (Always another female, novel and NATION within-the self-reflecting looking-glasses, the nightmare of infinity). But I am misrepresenting, distorting, and misinterpreting this story, which is full of lively incident and information about Fleet Street, and likely to be read with immense satisfaction by all who do not share the unfortunate bias and complexes of the reviewer.

The idea of "Special Providence" is a good one, a study of the effect of war-time conditions upon civil justice, suggested possibly by an actual war-time murder trial. But the psychology is disappointingly superficial and amateurish, and the method Mrs. Hamilton has adopted of telling the story partly in direct narrative but very largely through thoughts and memories in the mind of the chief character makes it a tiresome book to read. "She remembered how he . . ." is one of the worst fictional forms ever invented. As a novel "Pending Heaven" is hopelessly careless-one cannot assume that the author of "Futility" and "The Polyglots" does not know how to construct a novel if he wants to. It is, however, full of amusing remarks and situations, a few very amusing, the majority fairly so. Mr. Gerhardi is one of the very few modern novelists with a real

gift for comedy, but in "Pending Heaven" he merely reminds us that that is the case.

"Down in the Valley," a bucolic idyll-novel, tells of the intertwined passion and peace always found by those who lay their hearts close to the great warm bosom of mother earth. Luck is with Everard, the hero, from the moment that he buys his week-end cottage. Everything that ought to happen does happen. He meets romantically, when shooting rabbits, a lovely girl called Ruthie Gathercole, admirably described by Mr. Freeman as representing "lush youth." She becomes his mistress, later the girl of his heart, later (after a misunderstanding to stimulate our interest) she becomes his betrothed. Then there is Everard's housekeeper, the bright woman with a hidden sorrow. She is married to the horse doctor, a horrid character, and eventually there is the fight between Everard and the horse doctor. Everard bits off a large piece of his ear. Nor is that all of it—farms, flowers, beasts, birds, all conduct themselves as is natural and befitting in a story of this type. No reader need fear disappointment from ewes or hedgehogs, from willowherb, hemp agrimony, chervil, knapweed, bullaces, or whippletrees.

LYN LL. IRVINE.

ANTHOLOGIES

Six Vaudois Poems. Edited by H. J. CHAYTOR. (Cambridge University Press. 10s. 6d.)

Anonymous French Verse, Fifteenth Century. By N. HARDY (University of London Press. 12s. 6d.) WALLIS.

The Jade Mountain. A Chinese Anthology. By WITTER BYNNER

and Kiang Kang-Hu. (Knopf. 12s. 6d.)

Treasury of Middle English Verse. Selected and rendered into modern English by MARGOT ROBERT ADAMSON.

THESE four books in their diversity have in kin the good scholarship that went to their making. Mr. Chaytor writes in the preface to "Six Vaudois Poems" that none of them has much value as poetry. We agree that his translation of these fourteenth-century poems from the Waldensian MSS. has added to our knowledge of a much persecuted people, even if the sum of poetry itself be not enriched. These didactic religious exercises produced in the Cottian Alps are the only literature that has survived of any Vaudois community.

Mr. Hardy Wallis is also constrained to apologize for the French poems he has translated. In his Introductory Note he states: "The fifteenth and early sixteenth century is not a period of great poetry." We bewail the fate that has divorced these prinked-out gallantries from the MS. of which they were so much a part. "Bound in scarlet, and written on vellum" is a shell in which the greyest mollusc might face the world bravely. But the student must be considered, and he will find the bibliographical notes invaluable.

The T'ang figures from rifled tombs have taught us that the people who produced an art so finely conceived and virile must have had a literature to correspond: no one art can be left in the air in the cultural development of a nation. We have the advantage of seeing with our own eyes in the T'ang figures the work as it left the hands of the potters, but ignorance of the subtleties of the Chinese language impels us to realize that between us and the original poems of "The Jade Mountain" there is much beauty unrevealed, that the jade bowl we hold up to the sun is marred by a thousand flaws. Still, as the Chinese proverb says, "Better be a bit of broken jade than a whole tile." Or, better still, quoting from Tu Fu, these poems, "They run with you, crying, they tug at your sleves." It is remarkable to find that, with all the preparation for a future life the pottery in the T'ang graves implies, Yüan Chên should allow a man, who is lamenting the death of his wife, to bemoan :-

What have I to hope for in the darkness of our tomb? You and I had little faith in a meeting after death—Yet my open eyes can see all night That lifelong trouble of your brow."

The introduction by Dr. Kiang Kang-Hu is a masterly and lucid exposition of the construction of Chinese poetry, 0

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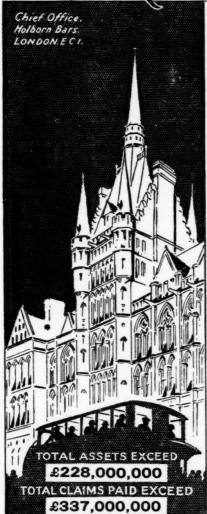
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Payments to Policyho	older	s -	•	•	- £11,102,120
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Premiums	Received -	•	•	•	£1,845,509
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and should be forced upon our very modern poets. Bright young people could with advantage study the tone patterns set forth there; perhaps then parrot words now used so glibly might acquire some meaning even to the parrots.

In "A Treasury of Middle English Verse" we have the love-children of English Poetry, poems without paternity, but whose structure and beauty proclaim their lineage. Here we have the cup from which our forefathers drank, and here the simple piety that flowered because the soil was good, and here the love and living that we become aware of when we tread the seldom trodden paths. Their essence haunts our land, it steals into our hearts. We knew, though until now we had not read, one lies asleep who said :-

"Speak soft, ye folks, for I am laid asleep, I have my dream."—Hill MS., c. 1518.

And good is it to read, in Miss Adamson's rendering of "Grey Eyes," from Harl. MS., c., 1310:-

"A veil white as whale's bone,
A gown of gold that goodly shone,
A kirtle that mine heart is on."

WHAT RABELAIS MEANT

Rabelais, Man of the Renaissance. By SAMUEL PUTNAM. (Cape. 12s. 6d.)

MR. PUTNAM is none of your "good Pantagruelists," your wine-bibbers, toss-pots, Old Boys, pottle-pots, and gutswillers; "this is a lean man's Rabelais. Too long, the Curate (sic) of Meudon has had about him men that are sleek and fat and such as sleep o' nights. It is time he had a scrawny friend or two." And later: "I am sorry, I may be a bad biographer, but I am unable to give you my subject's precise waist-measurements; the 'documents' unfortunately are lacking, and I for one would not give a Spanish maravedi to come upon them. But I can tell you this, his genius was not fat." Yet Mr. Putnam is not an extremist; if he rejects old Rabelais laughing in his easy chair, he also rejects the "hunted hare" legend of Michelet. For any other point of view he has a healthy scorn; he is, indeed, a good scorner. He scorns the "Maurois school" of biography (he has other methods of entertainment); he scorns humanists-after all, sober, honest souls who would do good to their fellows-as being entangled in a point of view which is "left hanging in the air, a flapping ghost on the clothes-line of intellectual freedom, a pauper . . . "; and as a good American who, so he declares, never feels at home except in Paris, he scorns the English language. This is a pity, because he has a store of results to show for a deal of work; the interest of his subject and his general line of treatment are enough by themselves to make a most delightful book: but he has not trusted to his interest, and has tried to enliven his excellent matter in a manner which wounds and excoriates the reader. As a further result, it is not altogether easy to discover what Mr. Putnam really does think: there is plenty of flame, but there is also abundance of smoke.

He disposes finally of the notion, if it still persists, that Rabelais was the mere Falstaffian good liver, 'the smutty Doctor," and so on. He also disposes, not quite so finally, in spite of the concurrence of other authorities, of attempts to make out of the four books (the last is posthumous and largely spurious) a smashing political satire. He scorns to try to demolish the various theories-some of them deserve this attention, and Motteux's Navarrais ascriptions are at least interesting-contenting himself with pointing out that the theorists differ, as though that settled their hash. After all, it makes no odds how many people hold irreconcileable views on any point: one of them may still be right. Assuming, then, that Rabelais was not merely a writer using a colossal genius for words just for writing best-sellers modelled on old popular tales of Pantagruel and such like, what was he writing about?

Mr. Putnam makes out a good case for his being no more than an ardent humanist, influenced by Budé and his kind, battling for freedom of thought and life, and using topical subjects as purveyors of his theme. At first tainted, but no more, with Protestantism, he afterwards returned

to the Catholic fold, indeed the National-Catholic fold, and enjoyed royal patronage. The main lines of each of his books were dictated by some matter of immediate interest, a drought, a war, the Querelle des Femmes, and so on. A man of great erudition, of encyclopædic knowledge, not only of books but also of life, having acquired monastic lore, graduated as a medical man, and absorbed knowledge wherever he went from men of various crafts, soldiers, sailors, he used all this knowledge as a realistic writer who, as a doctor, believed in the healing power of laughter and was intent upon reconciling Plato with Christian doctrine. That is all, for if he would not have Rabelais taken too lightly, as a sort of reveller's text-book, neither would he have him taken too seriously. He does not mention Coleridge, though doubtless he has read him, but he would probably dislike his reading of Panurge (merely a "type," Mr. Putnam would say) as "the wisdom, that is, the cunning of the human animal-the understanding, as the faculty of means to purposes without ultimate ends, in the most comprehensive sense, and including art, sensuous fancy, and all the passions of the understanding." For Mr. Putnam does not believe that Rabelais was a profound philosopher.

The book, however, sets out to be a biography rather than a discussion of the master's work, and in it the threads of his life are carefully disentangled: his monastic period, that under the patronage of Bishop D'Estissac, his years at Montpellier and Lyons, and his subsequent wanderings, mostly under the wing of the Bellay family. In this Mr. Putnam shows himself a scholar, for he will accept nothing but fact proved by documentary evidence, and rejects all legends. The life does not for that become any the less picturesque. As indubitable statement of fact the book is admirable, but as a biography it has a great deal more than is desired. What it lacks, and cries out for, is a

bibliography and index.

BONAMY DOBRÉE.

A DISAPPEARING TYPE

Memoirs of Travel, Sport, and Natural History. By HENRY JOHN ELWES. Edited by EDWARD G. HAWKE. Introduction by the Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, and a chapter on Gardening, by E. A. Bowles. (Benn. 21s.)

This is the true effigy of a man the passing of whose type one must regret, however unavailing and sentimental the regrets may be. It can hardly be imagined that such men were ever common, but the conditions necessary for their development are becoming so rare that extinction is nearly certain. He was a large man: in his ideas, his tastes, his generosity, and his person. There are so many stock phrases which could be used in describing him that it is better to eschew the lot and try to detect the more significant

features of his long life as here set forth.

He came of a moderately wealthy landowning stock, was at Eton, and then a subaltern in the Scots Guards, from which regiment he resigned in 1869 (" as I found that there was little or no prospect of any real soldiering "). He was, by his earliest recollections, always interested in matters of Natural History, but the branches for which he will be and deserves to be best remembered did not claim him till middle life. ("And to think I spent twenty of the best years of my life catching butterflies.") He was in the fullest and best sense an amateur scientist; and so, when he came to "the most complete and useful" of all the work he ever did, "The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland," he chose a professional colleague, Dr. Henry. This is not to suggest that he was in any derogatory sense dilettante or lacking in scientific judgment. He is described as having "an astonishing ability of recognizing at a glance animals or plants he had at any time observed carefully," but he was wise enough to see that the large view which he knew himself to have should not be sacrificed for the minute accuracy necessary if the work were to be more than popular. And as to "populus," his reactions are predictable. With the highest sense of responsibility to his labourers he coupled a great dislike of Radicalism, as witness: "Anyhow, there are parishes notorious for their political virulence from

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COMPANY MEETING.

LONDON MIDLAND & SCOTTISH RAILWAY COMPANY

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company was held at Euston Station, London, N.W.1, on Friday, February 28th, 1930.

Sir Josiah Charles Stamp, G.B.E., Chairman of the Company, presided.

LTS OF THE YEAR'S WORKING RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS

The losses in Passenger Traffic Receipts for the year were severe, partly offset by improvements in Mineral and Coal Shortly, the receipts

	Worse		Better	
	£	%	£	%
Passengers	1,154,000	5.0	_	
Parcels, Mails, &c	_		97,000	1.4
Merchandise (Classes 7 and over)	360,000	1.6	_	
Minerals, &c. (Classes 1 to 6)			203,000	3.1
Coal, Coke, &c	*****		616,000	4.5
Live Stock	53,000	6.1	_	
	£651,000	0.9	-	_

Generally, our receipts were affected adversely by the continued depression of trade in the heavy and textile industries in the area covered by the L. M. S. system. While on the year the volume of unemployment of the whole country showed a decrease of 3 per cent., there was actually an increase of 7½ per cent. in the North Western area. In Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding) and Lanarkshire, mainly areas peculiar to the L. M. S., there arises about 40 per cent. of the unemployment

cent, in the North Western area. In Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding) and Lanarkshire, mainly areas peculiar to the L. M. S., there arises about 40 per cent. of the unemployment in the whole of Great Britain. This inevitably reacted on our traffic receipts as regards both Merchandise and Passengers. The excessive depression in trade in the area of this Railway is also reflected in the Bankers' Clearings. The Metropolitan Clearing for 1929 showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. over 1928, but Liverpool, Manchester, and Bradford taken together decreased over 6 per cent. The shrinkage in the case of Bradford was as much as 13.3 per cent., a sad commentary on the state of the wool textile industry, whereas the other eight large centres not so completely identified with the L. M. S. showed a decrease of 1.15 per cent. only. Again, in shipbuilding the tonnage launched on North East Coast during 1928 was 90,000 greater than upon the Clyde. In 1929 it was 180,000 greater; there was a lesser output on the Clyde of 40,000 tons, whilst the North East Coast increased by 50,000.

Apart from this general cause, the Passenger receipts were turther adversely affected by road competition and steps were taken to counter it by the extension of cheap fares, but while there were only 2 per cent. fewer passengers, the receipts were 5 per cent, less. What they would have been had reductions in fares not been made it is difficult to say, but the loss of volume, notwithstanding these reductions, indicates that diminished charges were not the main cause of the decline and, in fact, our passenger department can point to large blocks of new traffic in particular areas attracted by special fares. In Lancashire our losses were particularly severe, a contributory factor being the stoppage in the cotton trade at the height of the holiday season. There is again a noticeable reduction in the short distance traffic, although this traffic has the lowest fares, and I will later refer to the steps we are taking to share in this diversion to the publ

RAILWAY EXPENDITURE

Against the loss in receipts there is the substantial reduction of £780,000 in working expenses which are seen in the summary statement accompanying the report. It must be remembered that

this follows a reduction of £2,500,000 a year ago, and is quite apart from the 2½ per cent. reduction from salaries, wages, &c.

There was a reduction of £610,000 in operating expenses.

The reduction in operating expenses, a general one, an exception being locomotive coal which cost £65,000 more. As we ran 2,200,000 more miles the saving is even more marked than would appear from the reduction of £610,000, and the Board are most appreciative of the very great support they have had from all grades.

The amount charged to the expenditure of the year and credited to renwal provisions is £5,250,000—not a haphazard figure, but arrived at in great detail on scientific lines.

ngure, but arrived at in great detail on scientific lines. The renewal and Maintenance Funds were charged in the year with £6,500,000 in respect of the non-capital portion of new work, and now stand at just under £20,000,000. The outlay on new works met by these funds, and that met out of capital, has not only contributed greatly to the efficiency of the undertaking, but has incidentally been of great value to the industry of the country in time of difficulty. It has totalled £50,000,000 in the period since amalgamation.

The continuous reduction of the salaries and office expenses

in the period since amalgamation.

The continuous reduction of the salaries and office expenses in General Charges has been referred to at several of these meetings. In 1922, immediately prior to amalgamation, they totalled £961,000, and in 1929 £589,000, a reduction of nearly 40 per cent., there being a further reduction in 1929 of £24,000. This is an easily isolated example of the steady fruition of the economies resulting from fusion of administrative staffs. With these reductions in expenditure the Net Railway Receipts show an increase of £104,000, and I now come to the other income.

other income.

Road Motor Transport shows a loss of £6,000, but this is mainly attributable to the fact that the services are new and are not yet fully established. As the report indicates, by far the greater part of our interests in road services will be as shareholders in Road Companies and these do not affect the returns for 1929.

In Steamboats there is a very satisfactory improvement of £85,000, and the net receipts of £193,000 is by far the best result we have had. The Irish Services, generally, have shown marked improvements.

Canals and Docks, together, are better by £25,000, but Hotels and Catering are less by £31,000, and Collection and Delivery by £97,000. There has been a large growth in carted traffic which, as I explained a year ago, is not directly traffic which, remunerative.

remunerative.

Join Lines are better by £31,000.

The other Accounts are all better, and I need mention only Rents, £52,000, a steadily improving figure due to the efforts to obtain new income from railway curtilages, and Interest items, £68,000, to which the freeing of cash resources through the reduction of stocks of stores by a further £1,100,000 has materially contributed. materially contributed.

the reduction of stocks of stores by a further £1,100,000 has materially contributed.

The only other item I need mention is the increased effect of the 2½ per cent. deduction from Fees, Salaries and Wages for a whole year, as against 4½ months in 1928, £670.

The summation of these figures is a Net Revenue for the year of £17,175,000, or more by £904,000, and adding the increased amount brought in, £100,000, the additional amount available for ordinary Stock, prior charges being practically the same, is £1,004,000, out of which the Board recommend an increase of the dividend from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent., absorbing £952,000, and carrying forward £212,000, or more by £52,000, and at the close of my remarks I shall ask you to adopt that recommendation.

At the foot of page 3 you will see that an approximate analysis is given of the disposal of the receipts of the year from all businesses showing the relative weight per £ of the chief divisions of outgoings, and the figures speak for themselves. Of course, the Coal and other purchases (4s.) also include a large proportion paid in wages, in addition to the sums paid direct by the Railway, viz., 10s. 9d., and to dispose of an inquiry from a stockholder, I may mention that the 4s. 3d. for interest and dividends includes debenture interest.

On page 4 we give an analysis of the number of holdings in each class of the Company's stocks. It is of interest to note that in the fixed interest and prior stocks the majority of holdings are in the "£400 and upward" classes; but in the ordinary stock, which bears the main burden of fluctuations in industrial fortunes, well over 50 per cent. of the holdings are under £300. The total number of accounts is about 300,000. In this connection it is interesting to observe that the pay roll covers 249,000 people, in 1921 it covered about 285,000, and in 1923 268,000—an important index of the progress of reorganization.

It is with very great regret that I have to refer to the death, in March last, of Mr. R. W. Reid, who was Vice-President for Works and Ancillary Undertakings. Mr. Reid was a young man of brilliant attainment and proved worth, and by his death the Company suffered a well-nigh irreparable loss.

After very careful consideration your Directors have

(Continued on page 779.

which I would not hire a labourer willingly, and though I should be the last man to use any influence I may have towards a labourer about his vote, no one can blame me if I try to select the men with whom I have to live and work from those who do believe that what is good for me is good for them also." That he himself believed this and acted on it, none reading his book can doubt. These memoirs, though fairly long and with any notable literary pretensions, are full of the charm necessarily associated with a man who, at the end of his life, could write:—

"I have, during my life, taken an active part in most outdoor sports and occupations. I have crossed and recrossed the Himalayas and the Andes, explored Siberia and Formosa, shot and fished in Norway, and, as I grow older. I find that there is more companionship, consolation, and true pleasure in gardening and in plants than in anything I have tried."

A LITERARY POCKET-BOOK

Though not very many persons will nowadays "have words" over the Froude-Carlyle controversy, it is as well that we should know what it was and how it developed. This opinion has impelled Professor W. H. Dunn through twenty-five years of investigation, resulting in his "Froude and Carlyle" (Longmans, 15s.). The trouble, as he shows in a correct and balanced narrative, originated in Froude's failure to obtain from Carlyle written instructions for his exact connection with the Carlyle papers. Mrs. Alexander Carlyle appears to have had that advantage in the dispute, which has been more or less simplified into a series of attacks on Froude, Froudacity and Froudulency. To these, without belittling Carlyle, Professor Dunn makes a solid reply, and in the course of it he is obliged to discuss and to document various aspects of Carlyle's life, as also Mr. Wilson's huge biography (in progress). Professor Dunn emphatically prefers Froude.

Not many, again, will inquire deeply into the works of James Boswell other than the work. But as "Dorando, a



"It has a cocktail flavour."

-Manchester Guardian.

DAWN ON MONT BLANC By WILFRID BENSON. 7s. 6d.

Manchester Guardian:—"Mr. Benson's technique in handling his very difficult theme is admirable." Times Literary Supplement:—"Very entertaining." Spectator:—"Unquestionably an amusing book."

A new version of a well-known book.
THE OPEN CONSPIRACY

by H. G. Wells

When this book was first issued in 1928, the author arranged for its publication to terminate in a year or eighteen months. It has now been rewritten and a new preface has been added.

Available at five shillings.
TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

by Virginia Woolf

Now published in the
CHEAP UNIFORM EDITION
Was awarded The Femina Prize in 1927.

THE HOGARTH PRESS

Spanish Tale," is one of the rarest of eighteenth-century books, the neat reprint by Messrs. Mathews & Marrot (6s.) has its point. The tale itself is elegant enough; it would be hard to identify its style were its author otherwise unknown.

Gossip about autographs usually makes a genuine book for a rainy day, and Lady Charnwood's "An Autograph Collection" (Benn, 15s.) is of that kind. She has many treasures to bring out on the occasion. One of the most unexpected is Gainsborough's memorandum ordering that "no plaister cast, model or likeness" should be taken from his dead face. Lady Charnwood has captured numerous autographic whales, and some goldfishes. Her comments are not always very secure. Hazlitt is "one of those whom I should not, I feel sure, have cared to meet." On the strength of some trivial scraps of J. H. Reynolds's poetry, she remarks, "I for one shall not pursue it." "Tom Hood, junior" (page 176) is everybody's Thomas Hood. These details cause interruption in a book of agreeable curiosities.

The daughter of a former eminent editor of The Athenæum, Miss Ella Hepworth Dixon, gives us another sort of leisurely reading in "As I Knew Them" (Hutchinson, 21s.). Her way is not that of the eagle. She tells her reminiscences of the eminent Victorians, from her father to Captain Osbert Sitwell: "I have not attempted to put any of the people I have known into their proper niche." They come in and go out quietly—Wilde, Browning, Meredith, Henry James, Mrs. Meynell, Lord Northcliffe, and many others.

The Naval Conference naturally claims a prominent place in the magazines for March. Vice-Admiral Taylor in the Empire Review suspects the Government of not attending sufficiently to the example of Lord Nelson. Three spokesmen appear in the Fortnightly. Rear-Admiral Arnold Forster explains the technical factors, "Nauticus" (troubled by "the direction in which affairs are moving") looks at the political anxieties, and "Augur" turns our minds to the future crusade of disarmament. In the Ninement Century, Rear-Admiral Dewar speaks very plainly—but France, we think we have heard, is temperamental. Mr. George Glasgow's monthly review of foreign affairs in the Contemporary makes sport with the conferential vocabulary, which eclipses the poets. For instance, the submarine has been "humanized." But the Contemporary offers further Mr. Norman Angell—"a piece of him"—on "The Ultimate Politics of the Conference." Without unnatural gloom, he reveals the "moral chaos" of international relations as not being precisely contributory to a settlement this time.

The Editor of the Cornhill pays centennial honours to his predecessor James Payn, who found time to publish sixty-nine works; and Mr. Huxley declares that some readers are still faithful to "Lost Sir Massingberd." Payn could have made some valuable comments on Mr. Frank Swinnerton's paper in the Fortnightly—"The Task of the Publisher's Reader "—for it was he who rejected "John Inglesant." Mr. Swinnerton seems to set forth all the points which a good publisher's reader should have, and, after taking a good look at them, one sees afresh that the world knows nothing of its greatest men.

AUCTION BRIDGE

BY CALIBAN.

FIVE HUNDRED CONSECUTIVE BRIDGE HANDS ANALYZED (I)

HAVE often referred in these columns to Trinculo, who besides being one of the stronger players at the Setebos Club, has a passion for statistics which amounts, in the opinion of most of us, to a mania. In two recent articles (December 28th, 1929, and January 4th of this year) I reproduced the results of Trinculo's analysis of sixty consecutive hands. The favourable reception accorded to this analysis has encouraged him to pursue his researches on a more comprehensive scale.

He has now brought up to date his analysis of five hundred consecutive hands, which is, I think, a sufficiently large sample to enable some useful generalizations to be

COMPANY MEETING-(L.M.S. Railway Co.) continued.

appointed Sir Harold Hartley, C.B.E., F.R.S., to succeed him, and also to act as Director of Scientific Research.

As you are aware, at the head of the several Engineering Departments we are fortunate in having chief officers each being at the very forefront of his own particular branch of the profession, and we are confident that Sir Harold Hartley's special experience and qualities, in collaboration with them, and as their General Manager, so to speak, will be of the greatest service to the Company.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The process of amalgamation of the railways brought into one system a number of scientific laboratories engaged in the testing of materials, metallurgical investigations and kindred scientific work, and the late Mr. Reid did excellent work in rearranging the functions of these various laboratories and reorganizing them. I have for some time been greatly impressed by the possibilities of research, having regard to the large quantities of materials of all kinds used by us and the immense variety of processes involved. Some months ago I appointed a Committee to consider the suitability of our present arrangements to their present task, and the scope for further research upon definite and co-ordinated lines, and particularly the relationship existing between experimental testing in the shops, the laboratory work and the work of the outside research associations with which we are affiliated. On this Committee I had the help of some eminent men in the scientific field and in the world of industrial research. The report of the Committee was gratifying from the point of view of the excellence of the work now being done by our scientific staff, and the arrangements in the laboratories. They were favourably impressed by the high standard attained in the work and by the large amount of research in improving existing processes and developing new methods. But they confirmed our view that considerable scope existed for further intensive directed research, and recommended the appointment of an officer with special attainments, for co-ordinating the work and securing the necessary contacts between the Railway and Associations or Industrial Laboratories, together with the assistance of an Advisory Committee. We are now well on the way to carry out the recommendations of this Committee, and the present personnel of the Advisory Committee, who will meet from time to time to consider the programmes of research and their progress, will be under Sir Harold Hartley as Chairman, Sir Harold Carpenter, F.R.S., Profe

RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT

A year ago I outlined the policy of your Board and their proposed action to establish the Company in the Omnibus business of the country, consistent with the full powers conferred by Parliament under the Road Transport Act, 1928. This policy has been steadily pursued, the primary object being to attain as between the Railway and the established road services the fullest measure of collaboration, and the encouragement of the development of each form of transport on complementary lines. development of each form of transport on complementary lines for the benefit of both classes of undertaking and the travelling

public.

During the year, over the whole field of the Company's operations we have succeeded in reaching such arrangements for co-operation by way of a substantial interest in the principal Omnibus Companies, as well as in the omnibus services of a number of Municipalities in the Company's territory. In other cases where circumstances have been favourable to such a course, the Company has acquired a number of Omnibus concerns, either wholly or in joint ownership with the London and North Eastern and Great Western Railway Companies.

The Company's nominees are being elected to the Boards of these Omnibus Companies, and also on the Joint Standing Committees, which have been, or are being, set up to deal with matters of mutual interest.

These partnerships and acquisitions representing an interest

with matters of mutual interest.

These partnerships and acquisitions representing an interest in over 5,000 omnibuses and forming part of a scheme of coordination as between railway and road travel, which have been announced in the Press from time to time, are summarized in the Report, and, as they take effect, in the main, as from January 1st, 1930, the results of working are not reflected in the Accounts for 1929.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now beg to move "That the report now read, with the statement of accounts, be received and adopted."

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and then I shall ask the Deputy Chairman to second that resolution, and then I shall be pleased to hear any comments which shareholders may desire to make.

Mr. E. D. Fielden, M.P., seconded the motion, which, after discussion, was carried.

PROGRESS^{*} based on SECURITY

ABBEY ROAD

LONDON'S LARGEST BUILDING SOCIETY

RECORD PROGRESS IN 1929

The following figures prove the progress and prosperity of a great institution:-

SHARE CAPITAL

INCREASED by

£5,660,000 DEPOSITS

INCREASED by £578,000

MEMBERSHIP INCREASED by

38,000

MONEY ADVANCED in 1929 TOTALLED

28,800,000

THAT IS WHY YOUR SAVINGS EARN UP TO

The security is unquestionable, the yield is generous, withdrawal is easy.

Address your enquiries to Harold Bellman, General Manager, ABBEY ROAD BUILDING

SOCIETY, Abbey House, Upper Baker St., N.W.1

City Offices: 101 Cheapside, E.C.2, and 145 Moorgate, E.C.2

West End Office: 108 Victoria Street, S.W.1



framed. He intends, however, to explore the results attained in playing an even larger number of hands than this; and perhaps, in due course, we shall communicate the results to the Bridge-playing world in book form. In the meantime, a short series of articles based on the five hundred hands, which have been investigated to date, will, I think, be of interest.

We will address ourselves first to the question of cards nel; as there is still a widespread belief that the laws of robability have little reference to what actually happens at the card table, but are a mere figment of some professor's brain. As the first element of successful play is a firm and unshakable conviction that the laws of probability cannot be overthrown, the point is of some importance. Superstitious beliefs in "good" and "bad" cardholders, "winning" and "losing" seats, mascots, hoodoos, and all the rest of the paraphernalia of self-delusion, can only lead to bad play and loss of temper and money. I am, therefore, publishing, in detail, a statement of the cards held by Trinculo, in the hope, however faint, of convincing waverers that Bridge is not a game of chance.

For the purposes of analysis, Trinculo's hands are divided into ten series of fifty hands each. Our first table shows the number of cards held in each suit. This will not, I expect, prove of much interest, save to the statistically minded; but I shall presently attempt to draw conclusions from it which I think are of some importance. In the meantime, I will merely draw attention to the very close approximation of the number of cards held in each suit to the 25 per cent, which should theoretically be attained.

TABLE I.—Number of cards held of each suit

SERIES.	+	Q	♦	+
IA	169	168	157	156
IB	178	156	153	163
II A	150	158	178	164
II B	159	169	163	159
III A	149	179	160	162
III B	149	149	173	179
IV A	150	157	165	178
IV B	153	174	162	161
VA	165	167	156	162
V B	170	153	155	172
Total	1,592	1,630	1,622	1,656
Percentage	24.49	25.08	24.96	25.48

Now let me point to a rather interesting fact. That the laws of probability should work out according to plan, where suit distribution is concerned, surprises nobody. Yet players who accept Table I. with complacency will still believe that there are "good" and "bad" cardholders in respect of the holding of high cards. The reason for this, which I have often discussed, and which any way is pretty obvious, I will not stop to consider now. But I would invite the careful attention of the superstitious to Table II., which shows the honours held by Trinculo in the course of his five hundred hands. I should add, by way of commentary, that Trinculo is regarded by many of his Club-mates as not only a "good," but a phenomenal, cardholder—for the simple reason that he is consistently successful. For example, the five hundred hands which I am now discussing yielded him, on balance, 5,421 points.

TABLE II.—HONOURS HELD

Series.	Aces.	Kings.	Queens.	Knaves.	Tens
I A	47	50	43	44	47
IB	53	56	37	48	46
II A	49	46	59	54	51
II B	53	53	37	45	46
III A	49	52	56	45	60
III B	66	47	38	59	54
IV A	48	54	51	47	41
IV B	50	56	58	54	44
VA	49	45	56	57	56
V B	48	46	51	56	45
Total	512	505	486	509	480
Percentage of Expectation	102.4	101.0	97.2	101.8	96.0

INSURANCE NOTES

THE LEGAL AND GENERAL: RATES REDUCED

THE Legal and General Assurance Society are now offering the public considerable reductions in life assurance rates under various tables.

The premium reductions vary according to the size of the proposed policy. There are three reductions: (a) to the policyholder below £500, (b) a larger reduction to the policyholder of £500 and over to £999, and (c) a still larger reduction for the policyholder of £1,000 and upwards.

Another improvement given simultaneously with the reduction in rate is that the surrender values under certain forms of contract in the whole life class are to be considerably improved. This will naturally affect paid-up policy values also. In the whole life class, therefore, it may be said that premiums are reduced, and surrender and paid-up policy values are increased.

THE ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL

Concerning the new building of the Royal London Mutual Insurance Society in Finsbury Square, much has been written, and we do not propose to cover the ground again in these notes. It is interesting, however, to recall the fine

The Royal London Mutual was founded in 1861 by Mr. Joseph Degge and Mr. Henry Ridge. These two gentlemen commenced business in two rooms in Hammersmith. The premium income in the next year amounted to £602, and at the end of that year it had a reserve fund of £142. In 1881 the income had grown to £93,216, and the reserve fund to £74,230, while five years later the respective figures stood at £208,906 and £284,261.

There is little doubt that a great deal of the success of more recent times must be attributed to the influence of Mr. Alfred Skeggs, the present managing director. Mr. Skeggs was appointed Secretary of the Society in 1908, when the income was £1,243,925 and the assets amounted to £2,437,682. In 1902 Mr. Skeggs was appointed managing director, and by 1929 income had grown to £6,100,000 and assets were nearly £22,000,000.

HIRE-PURCHASE

An attractive booklet has recently been issued by the Auto-Motor Finance, Ltd., which is an associated company of the Scottish Automobile and General Insurance Company, Ltd.

Auto-Motor Finance, Ltd., point out that the system of hire-purchase is not applicable only to cases where it is necessary to anticipate savings, as it is applicable also to cases where the equivalent wealth is already possessed but such equivalent wealth may not be readily or conveniently realizable in terms of money, or it may be that even when this wealth can be realized, there are reasons why it is preferred to utilize the assistance of a finance company to make the desired purchase.

Apart from articles of luxury, the system is specially suitable for business purposes, as, for example, where an individual's or firm's capital is fully employed on the productive side, it may be possible to finance the distribution side, at any rate as regards motor vehicles used in that connection. While the system is in a general way applicable to all articles of trade or commerce, financing in the case of Auto-Motor Finance, Ltd., is limited to motor vehicles of all classes.

When you have selected the vehicle you wish to buy the dealer can be informed that you wish the purchase to be carried through with Auto-Motor Finance, Ltd., and he will hand you the company's book of forms for completion. The book is then sent to the company, who will immediately indicate whether the application is acceptable or not.

If required, the cost of twelve months' insurance, which can be arranged through the Scottish Automobile and General Insurance Company, Ltd., and one quarter's tax may be added to the price and spread over the period of hire.

GROUP ASSURANCE AND PENSIONS

A most significant movement now working towards the attainment of a higher standard of living in this country is the growing importance of group assurance and group pensions schemes. The number of progressive enterprises which are now adopting such schemes in co-operation with their employees would probably surprise the public if more generally known. Details will be given next month of three schemes recently underwritten in this country by the Metropolitan Life Assurance Company of New York.

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PROVIDENT MUTUAL

LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

HEAD OFFICE: 25-31, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2. (ESTABLISHED 1840).

MAIN FEATURES SHOWN IN ANNUAL REPORT, 1929.

- (1) STEADY PROGRESS.
- (2) INCREASED RATE OF INTEREST.
- (3) RECORD INCREASE IN THE FUNDS OF OVER £600.000.
- (4) PREMIUM INCOME INCREASED TO £873,000.
- (5) VERY LOW EXPENSE RATIO.

WRITE FOR PROSPECTUS GIVING PARTICULARS OF ATTRACTIVE RATES & HIGH BONUSES.

METROPOLITAN 8014 (5 lines).

C. R. V. COUTTS. Manager and Actuary.

who has wife or child or others dependent on him should make his life assurance premium the first charge on his income after the barest necessities of life have been paid for:

So states a prominent financial writer.

And while it costs something to insure your house, your furniture, your car, to assure your life

COSTS NOTHING

if the policy chosen be a with profit endowment assurance in the

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

for such a policy gives results which purely from an investment point of view are highly satisfactory, so that in effect life cover is provided free over the period.

Example.

A policy for £1,000 with profits payable at age 60 or previous death effected by a young man aged 25 next birthday.

Sum Assured and Bonuses (assumed at present rate) payable at age 60 £2,670 0 0

Net cost allowing for income tax rebate at present rate (35 annual premiums of £25 12s, 3d, each) ... 896 8 9

Profit £1,173 11 3

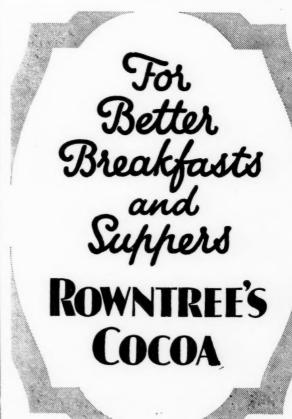
Profit £1,173 11 3 in addition to the advantage of life assurance protection during the 35 years.

Write to-day for Booklet "R.2," stating age next birthday and term of policy desired, when full particulars applicable to your own case will gladly be sent you (without any obligation on your part).

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FINANCIAL SECTION

WEEK IN THE CITY THE

DEFEATISM-UNSOUND FINANCE-HOME RAILWAY MEETINGS-PROVIDENT MUTUAL

this week was so deep that, if this were a time of war, one would have ascribed it to enemy propaganda inducing defeatism. The trade set-back is magnified into a disaster, and the forthcoming Budget is regarded as the end of the capitalist world. Economic affairs are certainly bad, and Mr. Snowden will probably not make them better, but it is well to remember that the reaction in trade is not peculiar to this country, and that the whole world is suffering from a collapse in commodity prices brought about by over-production (following on technical developments) and under-consumption (following on credit restriction). British industry progressed last year more rapidly than industry in most countries, and there is no reason to suppose that it will not recover from the present economic malaise when the rest of the world recovers. This talk of national bankruptcy has gone too far. And for a firm of brokers to urge a flight from sterling does not seem to us either opportune or public-spirited. Those who believe that American and Canadian securities alone merit invest-ment support should transfer their offices to New York or Montreal. The majority of brokers, however, will not give up faith, and will first wait for a change of Government. The prospect of the Conservative and United Empire Parties turning out the Labour Government actually sent a thrill through markets on Wednesday. This suggests that it is politics as much as economics which is disturbing the stock markets.

A great deal could be done to make British securities more popular by making an end of unsound finance. A beginning should be made with the Royal Mail group. Until some of these companies are reconstructed (the deplorable accounts of Lamport and Holt advertise this urgent need), the Stock Exchange will not breathe freely. The compulsory winding-up of Associated Anglo-Atlantic, a member of the Horne group with a capital of £1,000,000, and the present plight of Inveresk Paper, should also be a warning to investors to avoid unsound finance. Although Inveresk Paper last year paid an interim dividend of 121 per cent., it earned only 2.7 per cent., and it is now saddled with bank loans of £1,151,954 and a portfolio of depreciated investments. "The present position," reported Mr. Binder, the present chairman, " is largely due to the policy of indiscriminate expansion initiated by Mr. William Harrison." The circular issued to Inveresk Paper shareholders in September last, expressing the opinion that profits would show a substantial increase over those of 1928, was based on an estimate submitted by Mr. William Harrison which proved to be erroneous. This incident Harrison which proved to be erroneous. recalls the issue of a circular in December, 1928, purporting to come from the directors of Photomaton Parent, in which the assets of that Hatry company were valued at over £4,671,000. Dealings were resumed in Photomaton Parent shares this week at a few pence, giving the company a market capitalization of about £100,000. Unsound finance will never be stamped out if shareholders do not see that directors are made legally responsible for misleading statements and estimates.

The speeches of the home railway chairmen (we have not yet heard Mr. Whitelaw, of the London and North-Eastern) have revealed the fact that the fortunes of the four groups are more and more diverging. Sir Josiah Stamp made it clear that the London Midland and Scottish is worse off than the others. It serves the heavy and textile industries in the most depressed areas of the country. In Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding), and Lanarkshire, mainly areas peculiar to the London Midland and Scottish, there arises about 40 per cent. of the unemployment in the whole of Great Britain. Moreover, the goods receipts

HE gloom in Throgmorton Street at the beginning of of this line are derived to a greater extent than those of the others from high-grade merchandise the rates on which have had to be cut very severely to meet road competition. And whereas reduced passenger fares led to an increase in the numbers carried on other lines, there were 2 per cent. fewer passengers carried on the unfortunate London Midland and Scottish. On the other hand, the Great Western and the Southern have apparently overcome the loss of traffics to the roads. The Great Western, which has always shown an enterprising independence, is ahead of the other lines in its operation of rail and road services and expects to increase its passenger traffics and receipts this year. Viscount Churchill was also hopeful that although the 21 per cent. cut in wages agreement comes to an end on May 12th, and cannot come up again for consideration until November 12th, the Great Western would be able to offset this reduction in "savings" by improvements in other directions. As for the Coal Mines Bill, Viscount Churchill was not alarmed. The Great Western had covered a considerable proportion of its coal requirements this year at satisfactory prices. He might have added that if this measure stimulated the export of coal, the Great Western and the London and North-Eastern would benefit, seeing that coal exports accounted for 45 per cent, and 25 per cent. respectively of their coal traffic receipts.

> General Baring disclosed the news that the Southern Railway had made coal contracts up to the end of 1931 at prices little in excess of the present. The Southern is now using Kent coal for its locomotives, and is deriving an increasing advantage from the development of the Kent coalfield. Moreover, this passenger-carrying line is now reaping the benefits of its pioneering work in electrification. The cost of the electrification of the line to Brighton, which will substitute 4,921,000 of electric train mileage in the year for 1,972,000 of steam train mileage, is estimated at £2,700,000, and to be remunerative traffic receipts will have to increase by 6 per cent., which the Southern directors expect to achieve in the first year. But none of the railway chairmen appeared at all ashamed as they should be of their dividend policy. We have already urged that the home railway market is thoroughly upset by the continual charges in dividend which follows upon the companies? changes in dividends which follow upon the companies' policy of distributing earnings up to the hilt. Nor is it forgotten that between 1923 and 1926 the four groups drew upon their reserves to the extent of £9,000,000 in order to pay dividends they had not earned. Even now the home railways are found guilty of paying out in dividends the savings effected by a non-permanent $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cut in wages. (Last year this $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cut "saved" the London Midland and Scottish a dividend of 1.15 per cent., and the Great Western a dividend of 1.1 per cent. on their ordinary share capital.) This partly explains why the present market prices of the home railway ordinary stocks allow yields which one would expect from third-rate industrial shares, ranging from £8 12s. 6d. per cent. to £9 3s. 6d. per cent. On the whole, we would say that the market over-discounts the adverse features of the home railway situation.

> The insurance company reports are in full swing. That of the Provident Mutual Life Assurance is interesting for the light it throws upon the forward investment policy of the directors. The ordinary shareholdings have risen to 14 per cent, of the total balance-sheet assets. We understand that these ordinary shareholdings comprise mainly railway and public utility stocks. It would be fine to know how many of them were bought after the slump. The net rate of interest on the Provident Mutual funds last year was £4 17s. per cent., against £4 12s. 5d. per cent. in the previous year. The expense ratio at 13.65 per cent. was, except for 1926, the lowest on record.

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COMPANY MEETING.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND & LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

THE ADVANTAGES OF WHOLE LIFE ASSURANCE

The 116th Stated Annual Meeting of the Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society was held in the Society's Office, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, March 4th, 1930, A. W. Robertson Durham, Esq., C.A., F.F.A. (Chairman of the Ordinary Court of Directors), presiding.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings, expressed his regret—which would be shared by all present—that the President, Lord Strathmore, was unable to be present and take the Chair

dent, Lord Strathmore, was unable to be present and take the Chair.

The Deputy Manager and Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the Minutes of the 115th Stated Annual Meeting, held on March 5th, 1929, which were approved; and the Report and Accounts were taken as read.

In moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts the Chairman, after referring to the changes which have taken place in the directorate and to the new business, said: The investment of the Society's large accumulated Funds is a matter which receives the unremitting attention of your Directors, and the manner in which they are invested is shown in the Balance-Sheet. Following the course that has been indicated in the speeches in recent years, there has been a further reduction in the amount invested in British Government securities, although the sum so invested still remains at the large total of £8,359,606. The year under review has been a particularly difficult one in the financial world. Owing to high money rates, there have been opportunities for investment at remunerative rates of interest, but, on the other hand, there has been a corresponding depreciation in almost all classes of securities.

My predecessor told you last year that the market values of our securities showed a considerable surplus over the Balance-Sheet figures, and pointed out the importance of this inner reserve as a buffer against possible depreciation of prices in the future. He probably hardly realized at the time how soon the truth of this statement was to be brought home to all those responsible for the investment of Funds. I am glad to be able to tell you, however, that notwithstanding the all-round fall in the value of Stock Exchange securities the values brought out by our stringent valuation made on the basis of the market selling price as at December 31st, 1928, show the small depreciation of less than 4 per cent, on the values of these securities. A substantial margin remains in hand in the difference between the market values and the Balance-Sh

undergone a revision. Changed conditions since the War, including rates of interest and also mortality, in respect of which the Society has investigated its own experience, have indicated that the rates for Whole-Life With-Profit Assurances are relatively high. These rates have over important sections of the table been generally reduced. In order that holders of Whole-Life With-Profit policies effected at the old rates may not suffer any injustice on this account, it has been decided that at future Distributions of Surplus an adjustment will be made in the reversionary bonus allotted to these policies. A corresponding adjustment will be made in the intermediate bonus on such policies which become claims or are surrendered before the date of the next Investigation.

the date of the next Investigation.

In this connection I want to draw the members' attention to a special leaflet which is being sent to them with the Annual

Report.

For far too long the fundamental purpose of life assurance has been largely obscured by the popularity of a form of assurance whose chief attraction is the satisfactory manner in which it fulfils all the requirements of a thoroughly safe investment. I need not tell you that all we and others have said regarding the advantages of Endowment Assurance as a means of investing small annual savings still holds good, but we feel strongly that there is a distinct danger of too much attention being given to this alluring form of assurance and too little to the family that there is a distinct danger of too much attention being given to this alluring form of assurance and too little to the family provision aspect, which, after all, is the real origin and purpose of Life Assurance. So keen were our ancestors on making adequate provision for their dependants that they practised "candle-end saving" economy in order to provide the necessary premiums. Unfortunately, there is not the same keen appreciation of the privileges of Whole-Life Assurance to-day. Nevertheless, there are signs of an awakening and evidence is not wanting of a swing of the pendulum in the direction of Whole-Life Assurance. The special leaflet to which I have just referred deals with this vital question, and I commend it to the serious notice of the members and other connections of the Society. Society.

Society.

In conclusion, I would repeat that we are a Mutual Society of members insuring each other, and, as such, one of the outstanding examples of co-operative enterprise in its best form. In no way can the success of this enterprise be furthered more effectively than by the introduction of new members by the existing members. We appeal, therefore, to all the members to continue the good work of co-operation by bringing the Society to the notice of their friends and putting them in touch with one of our branches.

The Directors' Report, together with the Accounts as audited, were adopted unanimously.

were adopted unanimously.

ECONOMIC JOURNAL

The Quarterly Journal of THE ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY.

MARCH, 1930.

CONTENTS:

MARSHALL ON RENT Prof. F. W. Ogilvie
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Prof. C. R. Fay
THE COAL BILL AND THE CARTEL
Prof. D. H. Macgregor
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Head Master: Mr. ALLAN P. MOTTRAM.

For details of Fees, Entrance Scholarships, &c., apply to the School Secretary, 31, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.4.

CHURCH EDUCATION CORPORATION.—Uplands School, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Two Open Scholarships of £10 a year will be offered on the result of an examination to be held on May 6th, to girls over 12 and under 14 on the 81st July, 1989. The Council will give, if necessary, additional grants of the value of £80 to £40 a year. Entries before March 81st. Apply to Head Mistress.

THE UNIVERSITY will shortly proceed to award two University Post-Graduate Travelling Studentships, each of the value of £275 for one year, and three Post-Graduate Studentships of the value of £150. The Studentships are open to both Internal and External Graduates of the University Applications (on a prescribed form) must reach the Principal, University of London, South Kensinston, S.W.7 (from whom further particulars can be obtained), not later than May 1st, 1930.

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP AT CROSBY HALL, LONDON

THIS Residential Scholarship at Crosby Hall, value £100, is defered to a woman graduate for research or advanced post-graduate study in London for the academic year 1930-31. Application should be made before April 7th, on a form to be obtained from the Secretary, British Federation of University Women, Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, London, S.W.3.

PUBLIC NOTICES, LECTURES, ETC.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A COURSE of Three Lectures on "SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GERMANY DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS" will be given (in German) by PROFESSOR E. LEDERER (Professor of Economics in the University of Heidelberg), at the LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2), on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, MARCH 17th, 19th and 20th, at 5 p.m. At the First Lecture the Chair will be taken by Mr. R. H. TAWNEY, B.A. (Reader in Economic History in the University).

University).

A Lecture on "SCIENCE ET PHILOSOPHIE D'APRES LES PRINCIPES DU REALISME CRITIQUE" will be given (in French) by M. le PROFESSEUR J. MARITAIN (Professor of Logic and Cosmology in the Institut Catholique, Paris). at KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON (Strand, W.C.2), on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19th, at 5.80 p.m. The Chair will be taken by the REV. W. R. MATTHEWS, D.D., M.A. (Dean of King's College).

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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT LECTURER (GRADE 8) IN DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Assistant Lecturer in Geography. Stipend £300 per annum. Duties to begin October 1st, 1930. Four copies of application, with testimonials, must be sent on or before April 26th, to the undersigned, from whom further particulars may be obtanied.

The University.

The University, Edmund Street, Birmingham. March, 1080.

SANDECOTES SCHOOL, PARKSTONE, DORSET.

THE COUNCIL invite applications, not later than March 29th, for the post of Head Mistress of the above School, to take up duty in September, 1980. Applicants must be members of the Church of England, and University Graduates. For full particulars and form of application, apply to the Secretary, Church Education Corporation, 34, Denison House, Westminster, London, S.W.I.

BOROUGH OF HYDE.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the position of Public Librarian. Salary £800 per annum. Candidates must not be more than 40 years of age, must have previous library experience, and hold at least three certificates of the Libraries Association. Applications, accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials, to be addressed to the undersigned, endorsed "Public Librarian," and are to be received not later than Saturday, March 15th, 1930. Canvassing in any form will be a disgnalification.

disqualification.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 1980.

THOS. BROWNSON, Town Clerk.

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W. HUDSON, Town Clerk.

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